NIAGARA NEWS

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NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts and Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

Progression plays at the second annual Battle of the Bands.

Photo by James M. Coote

Year End Bash

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Bottoms up, Niagara College. It's time for the Year End Bash!

This year's Year End Bash will be held at the Viper Club, 30 Ontario St., in St. Catharines on Thursday, April 25. Student Administrative Council (SAC) will have a full lineup of entertainment in store for school-stressed students.

The Viper Club has offered to provide two guest DJs, but SAC has booked KISS 98.5 morning guy Nicolus Pickelus and is considering inviting a local band or two, as well as a comedian, to get the night's festivities off to a mirthful start.

SAC is having special T-shirts made, and the nightclub has promised to give SAC 50 Viper Club leather jackets, which are to be given out to students during the evening.

With DJ Nicholus Picholus and funk band, Bass is Base

Ticket prices have been set at $3 in advance and $5 at the door. The event is exclusively for Niagara College students. The doors open at 7 p.m. and tickets are good up until 9 p.m., at which point doors will open to the public.

Last year's Year End Bash was held at Front 54 in Thorold, but because of the excellent deal reached with Viper, and because the club's stage is better equipped to handle the possibility of accommodating live entertainment, SAC opted for the popular Niagara hot spot.

SAC considered hosting the Year End Bash on campus in the After Hours pub, but because of possible noise bylaw violations, it was forced to look elsewhere for year-end party locations.

New vice-president, academic chosen

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

The search is over.

A new vice-president, academic at Niagara College has been found.

Chosen from about 100 candidates, Bonnie Rose, will replace David Schleich as vice-president, academic.

Rose, 46, has a master's degree in environmental studies and a doctorate in sociology with a focus on organizations from York University in Toronto.

For about 20 years, Rose was a partner with W.S. Kubiski and Associates Ltd., a consulting firm which has worked on three separate organizations and research projects at Niagara College.

Rose has had extensive experience working with post-secondary educational institutions including the University of Guelph, and Conestoga, Georgian and Niagara colleges.

'She's got a very hands-on style. . .' —Patterson

"It's helpful that she's seen the workings of other colleges," says Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

"She's had a highly successful track record."

Her previous work at Niagara included a review of Continuing Education services, working with staff to prepare a detailed review of information technology and participation in a variety of teams and working groups.

"I have the utmost respect for the people I have already been privileged enough to get to know at the college," says Rose.

She will be assuming her duties as vice-president, academic on May 27.

"I am just delighted about Bonnie's appointment. She's got a very hands-on style and is well versed in academic rigour," says Patterson, adding her academic and leadership skills will be a benefit to the college and its students.

"The future potential of Niagara College is very exciting to me," Rose says.

Notable achievements for SAC

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) reported "progress" and boasted its achievements to a near-empty room at SAC's general annual meeting on March 28.

Three students attended the meeting. They heard overviews on SAC's 1995-96 budget and activities, and the operations of After Hours. They also heard comments from SAC members about the individual projects they've been involved with during the year.

Dave Rapelje, 29, manager of After Hours, reported a more than double profit-margin revenue increase in 1996 operations. He attributed some of the fiscal success to increasing turnouts to events like Yuk-Yuks comedy nights, Thursday Night Pubs and weekly band appearances.

Expenditure plans for accumulated After Hours funds include building improvements, such as an addition to the kitchen and an expansion to the patio.

Gary LaRose, 56, director of financial services for Niagara College, said he thought "SAC should be congratulated for the amount of work they put into it (budget planning) because it takes time to even plan how to spend money."

A local accounting firm audits SAC yearly, and LaRose said that

'We've out-programmed most of the big universities. . .' —Verhoeven

SAC will probably close the 1996 fiscal year with a surplus.

An alteration to the SAC Constitution was made; student council will be conducting all official in-session business according to Bernoit's Rules of Order. The new rules of procedural conduct are Canadian in origin and will replace the American-styled Robert's Rules of Order, which SAC currently uses.

Mark McNiven, SAC's vice-president executive, gave a list of various student activities and charity events SAC organized during its term such as the AIDS memorial quilt; the White Ribbon campaign protesting violence against women; Shinerama, which raised $3,000 for cystic fibrosis; Octoberfest, which raised $300 for the United Way; and the Let's Build Doors to Open Them campaign, which raised $500 to help offset the costs of repairing the damages done to the Ontario legislature doors during the Feb. 7 protest at Queen's Park.

Scott Verhoeven, SAC's vice-president social affairs, commented on the effective use of funds in programming of SAC-sponsored events, and said he was confident SAC had provided fun and cost-efficient activities for students.

"We've out-programmed most of the big universities and now it looks like we're going to win a national programming award because of it," said Verhoeven.

All are welcome at native festival

By JASON YOUNG
Staff Writer

Culture, celebration and education are hard to fit under a small roof, but they should fit inside the Welland Arena.

The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre's Pow Wow Committee is hosting the first annual Native Culture Festival on May 1, 2, 3, and 4 at the Welland Arena, 501 King St.

The festival's goal is to promote and educate the Niagara community about native culture and heritage. The Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre (FENFC) was established in 1978 with an aim to heighten understanding among natives and non-natives through educational programs, family involvement and now a four-day festival.

"It (the festival) welcomes everyone. We're really trying to encourage non-native people to attend," says Lee Ann Labbe, festival coordinator at the FENFC.

"People find it very spiritually uplifting and all will come away with a good feeling."

Niagara College and the FENFC have a close link through some of the courses offered at the college such as the pre-apprentice Native Cook course available at the college's Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont.

The first annual Native Culture Festival will focus its attention toward elementary school students from the Welland County Roman Catholic Separate School Board and the Niagara South Board of Education. The festival will accommodate about 1,350 students each day. The general public is encouraged to attend evening and weekend festivities due to the large number of students attending the festival during daytime hours.

With Niagara College's involvement in the native community, Labbe said the college and the festival will benefit each other.

"Yes, I'm sure it will, not only with the college, but with the general public and other organizations too. It gives us (native peoples) an opportunity to share our culture," said Labbe.

The Native Cultural Festival's events will consist of many activities such as drum and dance demonstrations, native craft workshops, craft demonstrations involving beadwork, leather pouches, mocassins, dream catchers, pottery, carving and other traditional craft work.

Visitors attending the festival will also have an option of trying foods at two booths. One will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, coffee and pop while the other will offer authentic native foods such as fry bread, corn soup, Indian tacos and other types of native cuisine.

Labbe said she is encouraging anyone interested to volunteer with the festival and that volunteering gives anyone a front-row perspective to what's going on there.

The festival's schedule begins Wednesday, May 1 at 9 a.m. and runs until Saturday, May 4, at 5 p.m.

"We do have the Sea Cadets helping out with the festival and it's opening new doors for everyone because we haven't had an opportunity like this before," said Labbe.

For more information on the festival, contact the FENFC at (905) 871-8931. If interested in volunteering, Labbe can be reached through the same number.

Niagara College eases budget cuts

Niagara has suspended three programs

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

Niagara College has found a way to help ease its $1.7-million deficit created by the education funding cuts of Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

Program suspensions, educational partnering and communication of focused objectives are among the means.

The college's 1996-1997 budget was approved by Niagara's Board of Governors on April 11.

Hans Van der Slagt, the college's vice-president, administration, said the college has already taken action to reduce the deficit over the next three years with the suspension of three programs.

The programs being phased out are Interior Design, Manufacturing Engineering Technology (Co-op) and Nursing.

Cuts in operations, staffing and non-salary functions have also been implemented.

Working with others in the post-secondary education field is a priority.

Joint program with Brock a possible solution

• Niagara College may partner with Brock University in St. Catharines, in the development of Brock's Wine Institute. Board member Jon Ogryzlo, the college's director of environment, horticulture and agribusiness, was appointed to the advisory committee to oversee the project.

The development of this program at the university would complement Niagara College's wine education programs, as well as improve the economic sector in the Niagara Region.

• The development of a joint post-diploma program with Brock in the tourism field is also being discussed.

• Board members Lyn Russo, the college's director, communication and planning, Roseanne Morissette and George Repar organized two focus groups to provide feedback on the Vision, Mission and Values draft statements.

Area constituents representing different geographic and occupational sectors have been organized into two focus groups of 12 to 13 people.

The groups have devised lists of important tools to be communicated to the students at the college, such as student success, open communication and accountability. The board plans to use this material to help serve the students.

This "informative conference" provided good public relations for the college because it enables people in the area to know what Niagara College is about.

• The board recently visited the college's Broadcasting, Radio, Television and Film program facilities. Partnering with various industry participants has resulted in equipment purchases benefiting the program and its students.

Hit MPPs first

By KEITH LAPP
Staff Writer

After making cuts to public programs such as welfare and education, it would only be Common Sense if Ontario Premier Mike Harris cut his own salary and pension fund.

That is exactly what he has proposed to do in the next budget.

Along with the salary cuts, Harris has opted to reform the gold-plated pensions that members of provincial Parliament receive. Included in the reforms is the abolishment of the tax-free allowance, along with the end of the government-funded pension plan.

The cuts in the entire compensation plan amount to 4.8 per cent or $4,524 a year.

It is anticipated the cuts will amount to a savings of $1.5 million a year.

Personally, I feel encouraged as a taxpayer and a student to see Harris do something about the outrageous salaries and pensions MPPs receive. This issue has long been ignored by the past New Democratic Party and Liberal governments. In fact, you could say taxpayers in general were ignored by previous governments. During the previous Liberal and NDP governments, taxpayers were hit with more than 60 new taxes or increases. The NDP were responsible for 32 of them.

Although I feel the salary cuts don't go far enough, they are a good first step.

It's only logical the people who are asking everyone else to make sacrifices should make some of their own.

Granted, the proposed system is not perfect, but it's better than the current one, which gives former premier Bob Rae a yearly pension of $55,231. If Rae reaches the ripe old age of 75, he'll be entitled to a total of $3.4 million. In my opinion, this amount is just another slap in the face of hard-working middle class taxpayers.

It's obvious Harris feels actions speak louder than words. In this time of economic stagnation, the message he is sending is nothing but music to the ears of most Ontario taxpayers.

Students are paying provincial debt

Tories drop axe again

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

Niagara College students will be affected by the provincial government's measures in reducing the province's debt, says a teacher at the college.

About 17,000 welfare recipients attending college or university will be taken off the rolls because of recent government-funding cuts.

"This week, the biggest change seems to be that students on family benefits or welfare will have to be cut off," said Mike Collins, an English teacher at Niagara, referring to the April 11 announcement of $4.6 billion in government savings.

These students will have to take out a loan and repay a portion of it over the next 10 years, Collins said.

"This may mean some students are reluctant to attend this college in September."

However, many could receive more through the Ontario Student Assistance Plan (OSAP) said one critic of the Tory government, noting all students should be considered in the same ball park.

Collins said about 200 to 300 students will be affected at Niagara College. There are 4,618 full-time, 104 co-op, and 317 part-time students at Niagara.

Welland city Councillor Dianne Grenier.
Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

The new budget cuts will save $1.6 billion from government operations over two years — more than half of its $3 billion in savings target by 1997-98.

The cuts by the Harris government will affect everyone adversely, said Dianne Grenier, a Welland city councillor.

"The cuts are a lack of investment for students," said Grenier, adding investment should be made into the young people of our society first and foremost.

Grenier said the cuts will limit availability of education to the populace in general.

"I am fearful that we will go back to the days when college and university education is for the elite."

The provincial government's $32-million grant for Niagara's new campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is under review. Details are expected to be contained in next month's provincial budget.

Niagara might not get the new (Niagara-on-the-Lake) campus as it planned because value is not being put by this government on those kind of things, Grenier said.

"Students did not create the deficit in the province, so why are they paying it back?"

She said the government is cutting from the bottom up, stating this is no way to solve the problem.

SPOTLIGHT

Alternative lifestyle and proud of it

By SHERRY SUMMERHAYES
Staff Writer

"If you are yourself, life can be good or bad and you live with it. There is no difference whether you are gay or not."

Growing up in Welland, Rick Boutin has known since he was a child he was gay.

"For me it was a very natural thing. I was very comfortable with who I was and grew up that way," he says.

As a youngster, he did have interest in females, but not in a romantic way. "I was always comfortable with women, but they were just friends."

Boutin says he was one of the luckier ones. "I have been very lucky. My parents have been good people, both open and understanding."

Not only did Boutin's parents accept his coming out, but his best friend was gay. They came out together.

"It's a myth that gay men will have sex with anybody," he says. He and his best friend remained only best friends.

As for Boutin and his parents, he says he feels they had a better relationship once everything was out in the open.

As for society's reaction, Boutin has never hidden the fact he is gay because people had already assumed it. "I feel sorry for people who feel so afraid to admit who they are to themselves or publicly."

For any minority, a simple thing such as a job interview can be frightening. By being openly gay a job may be refused, just as it may be lost if someone says they are gay.

Boutin taught at McMaster University in Hamilton and Brock University in St. Catharines before coming to Niagara College this year.

Most of his students knew he was gay, but "they loved me there and wanted me to come back after I left. I had to turn down the job because I had already received another."

Boutin has never hidden the fact that he is gay from employers. But there is always the fear that by being gay, a job can be taken away, he says.

The Toronto area has much more to offer gay men than in Niagara Region. There are more support and social groups in Toronto. At Brock, a social club was organized for gay men. One of the organizers, Dan, a professor at Brock, is Boutin's partner of 11 years. They met at the social club.

Toronto is more active for the gay community, which is why many people turn to Toronto to become part of the gay community.

The Niagara Region has a social club for gay couples. It is at Brock University. In Hamilton, there are a couple of gay bars and a few social clubs. To learn where the gay bars are located it is usually passed through the "grapevine" of the gay community.

Dating techniques for gays are the same as non-gay courtships.

"There is not much difference," says Boutin. "The only difference is non-gays don't realize what it's like to be gay. For gay men dating is harder. Where do you go for a date? Many gay men are afraid to be seen dating in public. My partner and I go to movies and restaurants just like other people. But for some couples, when living life in fear, it's difficult to establish an open relationship."

Asked why he calls Dan his partner, he says, "he's not my husband, not my spouse. I hate saying significant other and companion sounds like I'm referring to a dog. So partner is the term I prefer.

"To be openly gay I'm saying we exist, but not 'in your face,' things have to change. It's not personal criticism but criticism against the belief system that makes these beliefs," says Boutin, referring to the oppression of the gay population.

He says he believes gay men and feminists have more in common than some feminists believe.

Women and gay men have been treated unfairly by society. For example, women and openly-gay men have been given lower-paying jobs in the workplace compared to non-gay men. Both have experienced a lot of violence too.

If a minority group is not accepted by society, politics becomes a big part to the minorities who are being treated unfairly. Women who weren't even a minority realized they were not treated fairly and decided to do something about it.

Just as the gay community has to be "political to keep changing the present state of things," says Boutin.

"To be alive is to be political, whether you are gay or not."

The beginning of gay pride was about 1960. A gay pride march occurs yearly in Toronto and across Canada. It is a one-day event where the invisible minority becomes visible. Booths are set up regarding gay issues, such as parents of gays, women against violence, and many other important issues. Many of the booths sell merchandise from gay owned or supported business.

Later in the day, a legally sanctioned demonstration occurs. That is the Gay Pride march. Gays and non-gays are welcome to march in the parade or stay on the side and watch. The parade goes through downtown Toronto covering streets such as Younge and Bloor. The police block off the route to allow for a safe march.

Asked what is his favorite thing about his lifestyle, he says, it is a hard question to answer. "It's nice to be different, but not when your socially criticized."

Asked what he doesn't like about the lifestyle, he says, "Some gay men are on the road to self destruction because they hate themselves. It is sad when you have to hide who you are."

Athletic co-ordinator retiring

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's longtime athletic co-ordinator is retiring.

After 27 years at Niagara and a teaching career of 33 years, Pete Rylander, has decided to call it quits.

Rylander came to Niagara in August 1969 and has been the head of athletics since.

Before coming here, Rylander taught mathematics and physical education in Vancouver, B.C., for one year and in Quebec for five years.

Rylander will retire Aug. 31. He said it hasn't been determined who will be taking over next year as head of athletics.

He said he planned to retire in two years, but the college offered him a retirement package so there was "not much point in staying two years.

"Two years from now who knows if there's going to be a package. I decided to take the money and run."

He said it was a "tough decision" which he had to discuss with his wife.

Throughout his 27-year career, Rylander said he had some ups and downs.

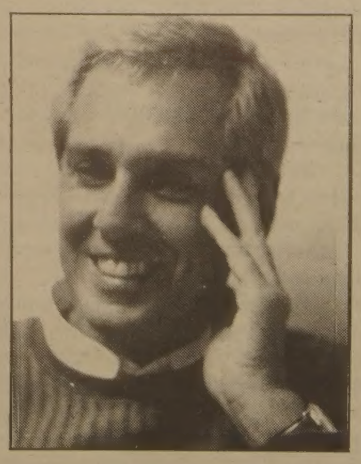
"I had a good time, and enjoyed what I've been doing. I can't complain."

Rylander, a Montreal native, said his career in teaching "went quite well."

'We've had good teams and mediocre teams' — Rylander

His responsibilities went far beyond being an athletic director. He coached the touch football team to three straight Ontario Collegiate Athletic Association championships as well as coaching the golf team.

"We've had good teams and mediocre teams. We've won three touch football championships in a row, but we've never won a provincial basketball title."



PETER RYLANDER

Rylander came here in 1969 and he has been a witness to a lot of strange happenings.

"I was here for the blizzard of 1977 when we were trapped for three days. After '77 there was a fake bomb explosion here when they tested the emergency requirements of the city of Welland. That was fun."

Rylander said he enjoys the students because after teaching younger groups, the 18 to 22 age group is his favorite.

He said he wants the students to look upon him as "a good teacher." He said he wants students to remember him as "someone they got something out of.

"We try to promote the fitness aspect here and a lifelong appreciation of it. If somebody 10 years from now and they say 'Hey, I'm out biking, walking, swimming because of some of the attitude I learned from you,' then I know I've been a bit of a success."

Rylander said he may do a bit of travelling and will always stay active.

He said the highlight of his career was his association with the students and faculty.

"I've made some very good friends and I hope I can carry on those friends for the rest of my life."

First Canadian ESL student

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

Niagara College accepted a Canadian to take the English as a Second Language (ESL) program for the first time last September.

"Just French is not enough for my future," said Gaétan Hamel, 18, of Nicolet, Que.

Hamel said he applied for Canadore College in North Bay first but he didn't like it because he found too many Quebecers there.

He said before he came to Niagara College, he called Mary Lou Eden, 55, a professor of ESL.

"Mrs. Eden said I couldn't take ESL because it's only for international students," said Hamel, but a couple of hours later she called him back and said he was accepted.

"I was excited and my friends said it would be great to study with international students."

Hamel worked two years from August 1993 to August 1995 for Larochelle, a natural spring water company, because he had to make money to come here for ESL.

He said he likes to study at Niagara College with the students from other cultures.

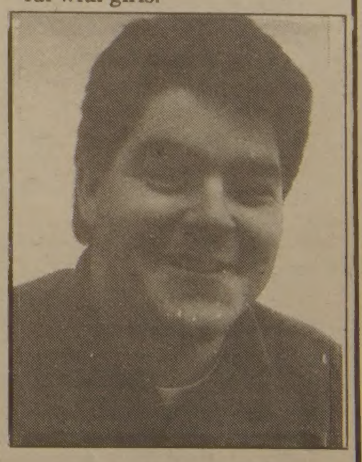
Last September, he went to Niagara Falls by bicycle with his international friends.

"It took two hours to go to Niagara Falls by my bicycle and I had fun."

At Christmas, he said, some international students visited his hometown and stayed with his family for three days.

He said he never got homesick, but he has problems: money, his car and his friends. He said he left his car at home in Quebec because he can't afford to have his car here, and he misses his friends.

"My friends in Quebec are all boys, but here I have more female friends than male friends. Sometimes I'm uncomfortable because I have to be more careful with girls.



Hamel said he wants to take the Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture program after finishing ESL.

"When I finish college, I would like to go back to Quebec, but if I get a job here in Ontario, then I'll stay here."

CAMPUS

Torch Run benefits Special Olympics LASA students

By ROBERT HALLETT
Staff Writer

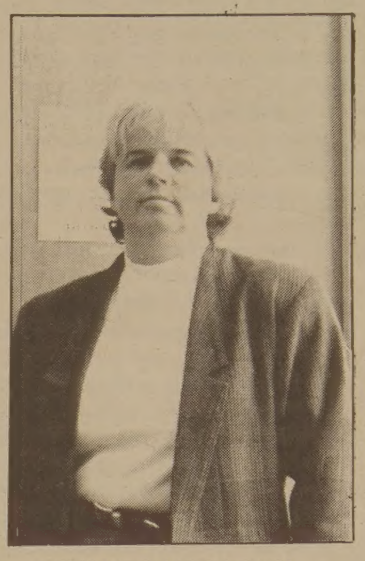
The Law Enforcement Torch Run will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at 9:45 a.m. and Niagara College students will be there.

The Law and Security Administration (LASA) program students will start at Hennepin Hall at the college's Welland campus. From there, they will go to the Seaway Mall. People from other law enforcement fields will also be participating. All proceeds will benefit the Ontario Special Olympics.

Students held two fund-raising events recently. The LASA students participated in a car wash at Doug Fralick's Sunoco gas station on Niagara Street in Welland on April 14 and sold 50/50 draw tickets.

All proceeds went to the Ontario Special Olympics and to Crime Stoppers of Niagara.

The students' involvement is all aimed at helping them reach their potential, Heather Hodgson, co-ordinator of the LASA and Correctional Worker programs, says.



HEATHER HODGSON

The LASA first-year students learn skills for policing, security, customs and immigration and they take some correctional field classes. The correctional worker students take an in-depth look at federal and provincial correction services.

"Our main focus is community corrections," says Hodgson.

"I think she's an awesome and helpful person," says Kim Fragomeni, a second-year LASA student. "If I have a problem, I can always go to her."

There are 364 full-time LASA and 67 correctional worker students. Of 553 LASA and 260 correctional worker students who have applied for next year, only 255 LASA and 50 correctional worker students will be admitted to the program.

"I enjoy the students," says Hodgson. "It's nice to see the potential that the students have. I also enjoy playing a small part in helping them realize their potential."

Helping students' relations

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

Providing generic job skills is the aim of Niagara College's Human Relations program.

"The program was designed to help students who want to work with people, but don't know how they want to work with them," says Beverly Brown, co-ordinator of the Human Relations program.

Brown says the two-year program teaches generic job skills such as interpersonal relations, computer usage, speaking and communication.

The program doesn't have a co-op element, but does have field practice which is a 70-hour "job shadow." The three field practices can be done anywhere and are meant to help students find what they like to do and what they are good at doing.

Brown, 54, of Grimsby, says "this is a great program if the students take advantage of it."

About half of the program's graduates return to post-secondary institutes to specialize in something, now that they know what they want to do, she says, adding some first-year students transfer to other programs, already knowing where they are headed.

"In any job, you can use the job skills we give," says Brown, adding some students already have jobs and take the program with hopes of moving up into management positions to improve their interpersonal skills.

A penny sale held recently at the college was a community project by a group of second-year students for their communications class.

Donna Gagnon, 42, a second-year student says, "We've learned a lot about what the world is about. We've been made aware of the community and what's going on out there."

Niagara's Business program introduces three classes

By KELLY VERDENHALVEN
Staff Writer

A growth area for employment is coming to Niagara College.

Knut Larsen, a member of the Canadian Institute of Financial Planning, gave a speech on April 11 regarding six recently "revamped" courses.

Three of the six mentioned will be introduced into the Business program at Niagara.

Ross Holmes, co-ordinator of accounting programs, says people can't rely on the government. "People are realizing they need help."

The three courses offered are personal financial planning, wealth accumulation and pension planning.

The personal financial planning course was introduced last September and was taught during the first and second term.

Students must earn 60 per cent in the course to pass.

In the student's second year, the other courses can be taken.

"The students will be well versed in how to look after their future," says Holmes.

He says there are more options and places to go if these courses can be incorporated into a student's course load.

Many banks, investment, trust and insurance companies can use people with the knowledge of financial planning, he added.

"It's a worthwhile venture for people who want to get ahead for the future."

Graduates prepare for future

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

Hopeful dreams unite as three Niagara College students look to their future with optimism.

Mike Crepeau, 21, of Hamilton, Daniel Davis, 25, of Ottawa, and Brandon DeLuca, 22, of Port Colborne, are full-time, second-year students in the Law and Security Administration (LASA) program.

Crepeau, Davis and DeLuca said they would like to work for any police agencies, immigration or public sector agencies, or correctional services in the future.

With the decreasing number of job opportunities in the law enforcement area, Crepeau, Davis, and DeLuca said they feel their future chances for working as police officers are slim.

"The chances of becoming a police officer, or getting into any police agencies, are going to be extremely difficult," said DeLuca. "People who are getting the jobs are the minorities."

Crepeau said he isn't bitter about his chances of becoming a police officer. "I'm just bitter about the qualifications that an individual needs to become one. I feel that it should be the person who is the most qualified, not one's nationality."

Davis said he would rather be protected by someone who is qualified as a police officer, not someone who got the job because he or she is a racial minority.

Niagara College's LASA program is designed to prepare students for fields in the criminal justice system.

"What we learn in the LASA program is extremely beneficial. We are able to choose what area of policing we would like to get into," said Davis.

Davis is studying private security practices, and Crepeau and DeLuca are studying private firms and public customs and immigration.

The trio said they enjoy the educational and social aspects at Niagara.

When classes end, the three can usually be found playing pool in the college pub or having a cold beer or two.

"Going to the pub (After Hours) gives the students a chance to relax and forget about school for at least a spare anyway," said DeLuca.

Crepeau drives from Hamilton daily and said he wouldn't want to go to any other college. "I guess Mohawk College would be closer for me, but I wouldn't, and couldn't, see myself anywhere else."

"Someday in the near future, I know Niagara will have done its job, and I will be a success, if not in what I have studied, but in something else," said DeLuca.

Education in the summer

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

Sun, swimming, parties and continuing education.

This spring many students have enrolled for courses through continuing education at Niagara College for their summer break.

Although enrolment of students is down from last year, many students are interested in the new courses.

Motorcycle, casino and sailing are just a few new interesting courses that are attracting students into the Hennepin building to enrol for summer.

"The sailing course would not be offered at any other term," said Desmond McCurry, associate registrar of the Registration and Records Department.

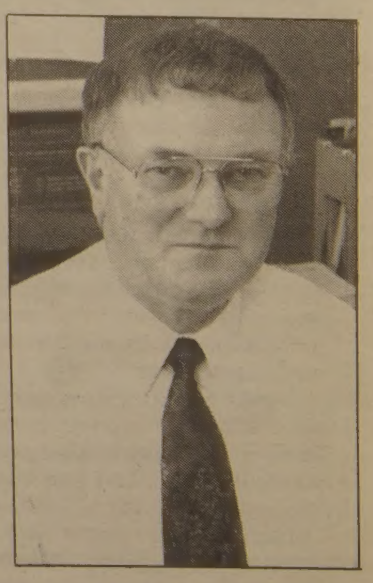
The majority of the courses are held at night, usually starting at 7 p.m.

The most expensive course costs $225.75 and counts for three credits.

Continuing education courses begin on April 29.

Decisions will be made on April 23 to discuss how many students have enrolled in each course and if it will be offered.

Enrolment for any summer course is in the Hennepin building at the continuing education office.



DESMOND McCURRY

Niagara students research the real world

By KERI-LYNN SMITH
Staff Writer

Public Relations Post-diploma program students put on one heck of a show.

As part of a practical element of their program, they're required to do a research project and make a formal presentation to an actual business.

Under the direction of Steve Stunt, a 38-year-old resident of Fonthill and teacher at Niagara College, the students chose a corporate sponsorship and media package for the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival, and presented it to the festival's board of directors on April 2.

The students involved in the project included Diana Berardi, Chris Farrer, Shelly Holden, David Leach, Nick Lezetc, Dawn MacIlrevy, Kim Reep, John Sakars, Trevor Twining and Alison Vizzari.

The project gave students "the opportunity to do something real in the industry," said Stunt, adding students in all programs need to get out in the real world more often.

And get out in the real world they did. For months, the students researched the wine industry, the Niagara Region and surrounding areas, tourism, other corporate-sponsor packages, media potential and who the festival attracts or could attract.

Leach, 39, of Welland, says the students each brought something different to the group because of their varied backgrounds.

They brought with them experience, diplomas and degrees from everything from journalism and broadcasting, to English, history and psychology.

"It's been a good mix," said Leach.

The group's work was 'oustanding,' — Stunt

The group used some of the latest equipment available for their presentation, such as a Pentium laptop computer with a liquid crystal displayer for an overhead display. They used the Microsoft PowerPoint program to show slides so they could "learn the tools of the trade," said Leach.

The presentation, held in the Welland campus's Tecumseh lounge amid balloons and streamers and followed by a wine and cheese reception, was greeted with applause from more than 20 guests attending.

Stunt said this experience is something the students can add to their resumes. The group's work was "outstanding," he said.

From left to right: John Paolazzi, former employee of the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival; Gerry Ginsberg, general manager of the Niagara Grape and Wine Festival; and Steve Stunt, a teacher at Niagara College.

Photo by Keri-Lynn Smith

Ontario's unique program gives hands-on experience

By DEBRALEE VanGHENT
Staff Writer

Niagara College has a program "unique" in Ontario aimed at helping physically and mentally challenged people.

The Educational Resources and Special Needs (ERSN) is a two-year program.

Pat Frank is ERSN co-ordinator. She is a former primary teacher for the Niagara South Board of Education.

In 1978, Frank was with the program on a part-time basis and in 1987 became a full time teacher. She has two special certificates in primary and special education.

Students in the program must exhibit "flexibility in an ever-changing job market," she says.

A Niagara College Graduate Employment Statistics report for 1995 showed 91 per cent of the graduates employed and 87 per cent of them employed in a field related to their program.

The students receive four semesters of work experience and many obtain part-time employment prior to graduation directly from their placements.

During the two years in the program, the students are required to go on work experience for their placement, which is aimed at giving them the hands-on experience they need.

One placement area for students is elementary schools. Many are there part time for 15 hours a week. The students receive a practical hands-on approach to classroom theory, so the skills they learned in school can be immediately applied and practiced.

"The students are highly motivated during their courses," says Frank.

Students are being prepared to work in educational settings, as part of a team supporting the special needs learners, as well as community-based programs for people who are developmentally and/or physically challenged.

Work experience is an important factor in the program, says Frank.

Students are required to complete about 700 hours in their four terms. Placements are completed in the educational system and in a residential setting.

In first term, students have their work experience at an elementary school with a local board of education.

In second term, they work with developmentally disabled people. In their third and fourth terms, the students work in a specialized school setting.

Once in the fourth term, the students can work full time and do their program courses independently. Also, if working part time within the field, they can use this as their fourth semester placement.

Frank said there are three courses "unique" to the program.

They are Sign Language, Physio/Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Disorder.

These courses "are important because they have important people who are qualified in these areas and who are highly trained and have the experience," says Frank.

The ERSN program has three "major contributors," she says. They are Debbie Del-Giacco, Theo Dagenias and Laurie Blake.

Del-Giacco is a full-time teacher. She teaches courses relating to people having developmental disabilities. She has taught part time and sessional for the past three years while working part time as a project co-ordinator for Chedoke-McMaster's Behavior Therapy Consultation Services in Hamilton.

Del-Giacco recently became a behavior specialist in the Niagara Region and at Chedoke Hospital.

Dagenias, a full-time instructor, is a qualified elementary teacher and special needs counsellor.

She was originally with the Lincoln County Board of Education.

Blake joined the program in September as a sessional teacher after working with the Halton Board of Education.

The ERSN students do community service work within their courses, such as volunteer work with Big Brothers and Big Sisters.

"Our new faculty group is excited about the program. They enjoy the students and help keep the courses up-to-date, which is relevant to their field of studies," says Frank.

Sell your textbooks

The Nebraska Book Co. wants your used textbooks.

The firm will be located outside Niagara College's Campus Store, Welland campus, from Monday, April 22 through Thursday, April 25 to buy used textbooks from staff and students.

Marilyn Hines, Campus Store manager, says, "This is generally done at most (college) campuses and is an opportunity for students to clear out lockers and staff to clear out offices, and make some money while doing it."

Prospective sellers should bring the textbooks for evaluation. The Nebraska Book Co.'s buyers will provide an assessment. Sellers may accept or reject the company's offer with no obligation.

Hours will be Monday to Wednesday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Child Care Centre sponsors garage sale

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

Nothing says spring like a garage sale.

The Child Care Centre at Niagara College is sponsoring a garage sale tomorrow in the Welland campus centre from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"There is a variety of items including children's clothes and toys, jewelry and books," said Pat Eversden, manager of the Child Care Centre.

The centre will also be serving doughnuts and coffee in the morning and hotdogs and pop at lunch.

The Parent Advisory Group, a group of 12 to 14 parents and community members, organized the garage sale to raise funds.

The funds will be used to buy equipment for the centre although she has nothing specific in mind, said Eversden.

GIVE SOMEONE A SECOND CHANCE.
Please give generously.
THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA

EDITORIALS

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S? Phone (905) 735-2211, Ext. 7750/382-2383. FAX (905) 788-3978.

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Casino location a bust

The Niagara Falls casino finally has a home at Maple Leaf Village. This facility will stimulate the economy in the Falls and finally bring in some money. But wait, Niagara Falls already has a booming tourism industry.

Aside from the spatial constraints of the congested downtown, the close proximity to the United States can be damaging. Who will want to come to a casino, lose all their money, then pay for a hotel, when its only five minutes to get back home?

If the home of the casino was in another city, or even in the west end of Niagara Falls it would be far more profitable.

With the casino less centralized, the probability for economic runoff is far greater. Tourists would be far more likely to travel an extra ten minutes to see a sight or go to a notable restaurant if they have already driven for 45.

Keeping the establishment away from the boarder would also deter the younger, poorer, less desirable people from venturing to the casino. We want the rich and influential, the family oriented, upstanding citizens of the U.S. to patronize our facilities.

It's all about money, it's all about spreading it around, it's all about common sense.

James M. Coote

Compassion should be unconditional

Everything happens for a reason. Even the terrible events that leave us feeling cheated and violated have a lesson for us.

Maybe it's difficult to find the positive in a situation involving a woman who pretends she is dying and cons a whole country.

We felt for Donna Mercier, not because we believed she was a victim of a crime, but because we believed she was a dying victim of a crime. How terrible — a sick, abused woman had her purse snatched.

People have their purses stolen every day. Do we care? People are abused every day. People are dying of unrelenting diseases every day. Why do we relate better, feel more, when we know a specific person needs support?

We patted ourselves on the backs for pulling together and doing the right thing, and were appalled when we realized we had been taken advantage of by a hoaxer.

Will we become cynical and wary of feeling for anyone else?

Yes, someone came into our lives and our hearts, took what she wanted and left us to feel used. But she is just one person.

Maybe this whole situation will teach us to give without conditions, just for the sake of giving.

Keri-Lynn Smith

Letters to the Editor

Student supports part-time teachers

Dear Editor:

Is "A" for aptitude or attitude?

I am appalled by one of Niagara's professional's "not impressed" remark.

Yes, Niagara College is hiring part-time teachers, but what education insitution is not? "Part-time teachers that have never taught before" is so unrealistic. Does Niagara College spend our money foolishly by hiring non-qualified teachers? I don't think so!

As a student I have never had a problem with a part-time teacher. I have had three part-time teachers this year alone. They taught and I learned, a simple fundamental of education. Some part-timers have many degrees and teach part time at two or three schools a week.

Is it their fault the province has no full-time positions available?

My current events, psychology and counselling part-time teachers all had unique teaching methods too. Their exams were fair and lessons were easy to learn.

I have never heard any complaints (we know students complain to each other), so these part-timers must be doing something right.

After four years of university and then teachers college, my son will be a "qualified teacher." And, yes, his co-op program at the university gained him hands-on teaching experience. The "never taught before" doesn't give any-credit to co-op programs or teachers college.

Mrs. Moreau-Petti, not all part-timers are wet behind the ears.

I'm a concerned student and parent of an up-and-coming part-timer.

Donna Gagnon
Second-year Human Relations program student

Nursing program will be missed

Dear Editor:

The new curriculum developed by Niagara College nursing faculty and put into effect in September 1993 is right on target!

Its focus is on "health promotion," a decision made by a faculty that correctly anticipated the future direction and role of professional nurses in the field of health care. The emphasis on health and wellness is entirely in keeping with current legislation passed in December 1993.

The Regulated Health Professions Act, in addition to protecting the title "nurse," clearly establishes nursing's scope of practice as "the promotion of health and the assessment of, provision of, care for and the treatment of health conditions by supportive, preventative, therapeutic, palliative and rehabilitative means in order to attain or maintain optimal function."

The new wellness curriculum also required a shift to an increased use of "community-based" nursing practice settings for student clinical experiences. Along with contract-based learning opportunities and other innovations, these curriculum decisions have prepared graduates of the nursing programs for the rapid changes occuring in health care in this province.

The announcement by Health Minister Jim Wilson that Ontario will spend $170 million more on community-based health care next year, primarily in areas where hospitals close or merge, is a clear signal that growth potential for private practice and other employment opportunities exist for nurses.

There was never a question as to the quality or the value of the Niagara College nursing programs.

The final decision to suspend them was based on complex financial considerations.

Is it not ironic, however, that just as predicted events begin to unfold, the nursing programs, so well designed to meet the future needs of graduates and of health care consumers, have been suspended?

Donna Conradi
St. Catharines

FROM THE HIP

He said

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

Yes it's true, Christine and I went to the male exotic dance club Peppermints in Niagara Falls Ont., to review a show.

Christine felt it only fair that I be exposed to the male exotic dancers the way she was exposed to the female exotic dancers.

First, I would like to thank the staff at Peppermints for seating me in the very last row.

I hope I don't sound paranoid, but I'm pretty sure that the waiter was hitting on me. Christine wasn't much help either, she tried to introduce me to him.

I only wanted a beer.

I felt like a dolphin in a net of cod. I was the only male in the room that wasn't a dancer. At least at Mints there were other female non-dancers to make Christine feel less awkward.

A large woman was standing in front of me, so I can't say too much about the "entertainment," but I will comment on the entertaining audience.

The crowd at Peppermints was largely made up of overweight women in tight jeans, screaming in piercing waves.

When one of the dancers turned around and slapped his butt, the screaming and clapping were so loud I almost lost consciousness.

There was a woman of about 65 that was standing in the corner, clapping and dancing on the spot with delight, her whistling and cat calls were hilarious. I didn't think women of that age had it in them.

The entire audience, with the exception of me, jumped up and roared when the dancer took off his G-string, and Christine was no exception.

It was pretty difficult to drag Christine away from there. She wanted to keep ordering drinks so she could stay longer.

After two drinks and an agonizing 20 minutes my constant nagging got to Christine and we were able to leave.

Photos by James M. Coote

She said

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

What can I say?

We walked into Peppermints and the only place left to sit was in the front row (yipee). But for James's sake, I hesitantly agreed to take a seat in the back.

James, thinking we were clearly out of sight, soon realized he was the only guy in the place. Where we sat, unfortunately for him, had a black light making his shirt glow, making him even more noticeable; I, however, felt quite comfortable there.

No nauseating pornographic films were playing on the big screen television in the background nor was there a hockey game. On stage stood a half-naked man with dark golden skin, bulging muscles and gleaming beads of sweat dripping off his hard pecs. Sound amusing, girls?

Trust me, it was!

Throughout the show, James pestered me to leave, but I blatantly refused, and ordered another brew.

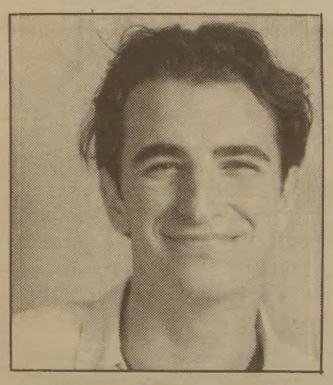
The aura of the club was quite erotic. With dim lighting and florescents glowing, the white towel one dancer wore made his body look particularily inviting (not to me, of course). The stage was set up with flowing white linen cascading over the erotic (oops) exotic male dancers. The audience was packed with women of all kinds, each knowing exactly what they were there for...a good time.

The thing about male dancers is they honestly deserve the title "dancers." Their flirtatious maneouvers were tasteful and certainly worth savoring.

As someone close to me pointed out, exotic dancing caters directly to male and female sexual fantasies. Men prefer the lustful, uninhibited fulfillment they get from female dancers, but women prefer the erotic and sensual romancing of a male dancer.

For me? I'd just prefer a one-on-one personal dance with my one and only.

Exemplary Canadians



By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Leave it to Niagara College students to prove the standard Canadian stereotype is accurate.

Pegged as passive and indifferent to things that matter most to us, we Canadians are seen by some as being the epitome of the "doormat" theory.

On March 26, Student Administrative Council (SAC) hosted this year's executive SAC elections. But really, who knew? And of those who knew, who cared?

The answer is nothing less than pitiful.

Of the 3,651 full-time students at the Welland campus who were eligible to vote, only a disheartening 134 took the minute out of their busy schedule to stop by the voting table and mark an X on their ballot.

Insufficient communication between SAC and students has been labled as the reason for this dismaying turnout, but let's call a spade a spade here, people: ignorance is easy, and people are lazy.

'. . .134 took the minute out of their busy schedule to stop by the voting table. . .'

Throughout the college, this common lack of concern for almost all college events is terribly reminiscent of the blatant political irresponsibility we've seen in past municipal and provincial elections.

In the 1994 Welland mayor's election, only 48 per cent of eligible voters bothered to cast a ballot.

The election of a college student council president or city mayor might seem like small potatoes to some, but what about the 2.4 million out of 6.6 million eligible Ontario voters who in last year's provincial election opted out of their democratic right to choose their government?

Of the almost 40 per cent of Ontarians either too indifferent about the future to care, too unaware of the party platforms to make a choice, or just too plain lazy to get off their butts, I'd bet my bottom toonie that they've got plenty to say about the current Conservative government.

They really don't have the right to say anything because they didn't vote.

Oddly enough, Canadians are starting to attest strongly to being pegged as passive. However, we just can't seem to muster up enough strength of will to break our nonchalant habits and jar ourselves from our complacent slumber to realize that we each can make a difference.

Mothers

By HEATHER BURTON
Staff Writer

What is it about our moms that make us think they are invincible?

As children — young and old —we look to our mothers for comfort and expect them to be the rocks in our stormy worlds.

It's silly when you put it into words. Mothers are still human, they still have emotions — fear, sadness, anger — but we never expect them to show these feelings. In the eyes of their children, mothers are invincible.

As we get older, we relish the new-found independence that we acquire with age. We strive to be our own person, reaching out to the world, ready for its embrace. As we mature we take with us what our mothers taught us: always have a smile on your face when meeting new people, be true to your friends, and remember that I love you.

For some, the ties with our mothers are broken when they die unexpectedly. They are still with us in spirit and in our hearts, yet we no longer can get daily encouragement from them as we used to.

Now we rely on ourselves and the characteristics of her which she instilled in us. She made us the people we are today.

Thanks be to mothers. Because of them we learn how to love — ourselves and others. Because of them we learn to be at peace with ourselves, with or without them at our side.

Love your mother — she's the only one you've got.

Happy Mother's Day, Mom.

(In memory of Judy Burton, 1950-1994)

JUSTICE

Four-legged cop no stranger to danger

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

A Niagara College graduate has gone to the dogs.

Const. Bill Harris, 31, of Niagara Falls is a member of the Niagara Regional Police Canine Unit and a graduate of the Law and Security Administration program.

Harris joined the Niagara Regional Police in 1986. He worked as a uniform patrol officer for three years in Welland and five years in Niagara Falls. During this time, he served four years with the Emergency Task Unit. He has been with the canine unit in St. Catharines for two years.

'This is my niche. I'm not looking for anything else' - Const. Bill Harris

Harris is the handler of Rocky, a three-year-old German shepherd imported from Hungary.

Harris said that all of the canines are imported to avoid hip dysplasia, a hip disorder commonly found in North American German shepherds. Dogs are chosen from breeders who guarantee freedom from this disease.

Harris said that after being accepted to the canine unit, the officer and dog must take a 13-week course with trainer Bob Wright, the acting sergeant, to learn the required behaviors. Afterwards, the training is two Tuesdays a month.

"Realistically, I'm training everyday with him.

"We are looking for physical well-being," said Harris. "You want to expose the dog to as many obstacles as possible — slippery floors, metal fire escapes — things that would detect phobias. If there are any, you want to overcome them."

There are six handlers and seven police dogs in the canine unit. The trainer, Wright, is the handler of Grief. Const. Jeff Hopkins is the handler of Chance, a narcotics dog, and Pharoah, the last original police service dog.

Weighing 72 pounds, Rocky is the smallest dog while Pharoah, at 98 pounds is the largest.

"We employ canines not because of their teeth but because of their nose," said Hopkins. "Their sense of smell is 700 times more effective than humans. This allows us to obtain evidence that would otherwise go undetected."

Rocky lives in a kennel in the Harris' backyard. Harris said that the cages in the police cruisers are designed to protect and secure the dog at all times, especially in high-speed chases.

The dogs are used for tracking, break-ins, armed robberies and any crime in progress where the suspect has fled the scene on foot.

WHAT THE DOGS ARE TRAINED FOR:

1) tracking the scent of a person to find missing children and people with Alzheimer's disease.

2) building searches of premises and residences. What an officer can do in 10 minutes takes the dog only one minute.

3) open search of forested areas. They pick up the human scent which leads them to the suspect. The dog is used where the track has been contaminated.

4) article search for recovering weapons from the scene of a crime. Harris said the dogs can "smell the human scent on the weapon" and can be used for something as simple as "finding an officer's lost keys."

5) stand-off if someone flees the scene of the crime. The dog is released to apprehend that suspect. If they give up, the dog will stop at their feet and bark until the handler arrives.

"The dog must conform to the use of force guidelines set out in the Canadian Criminal Code just as an officer would in that he must not use any more force than is necessary," said Harris.

6) handler protection. They are also trained to bite and hold a suspect.

Harris said the canine units are certified twice yearly by the trainer and must successfully do all of the manoeuvres to an acceptable level.

'The commitment you offer is lifetime' - Const. Bill Harris

About his job, Harris said he liked going to high-priority calls and the flexibility of being able to control all of Niagara Region.

"You never really get a day off because the dog still requires care and upkeep, for instance three walks a day. The commitment you offer is lifetime," said Harris.

Calls heard by the canine unit included a woman who called to report that her boyfriend had been shot.

A personal injury call came in at 1:10 a.m. which turned into a failing to remain situation involving a stolen vehicle. The canine unit was dispatched because the suspect had fled on foot.

At 1:50 a.m., all available officers were called to respond to a possible car chase involving two people involved in an assault. The canine unit was sent in case the people fled once police were able to block them in.

Other events included a tractor-trailer having its roof torn off from the wind that took out a Highway 406 sign and trying to locate a 13-year-old missing person.

"Some people spend their whole life not knowing what they want. This is my niche. I'm not looking for anything else," said Harris.

Const. Bill Harris with police service dog Rocky.
Photo by Janice Poole

Stopping crime

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

Citizens fighting crime.

Crime Stoppers of Niagara Inc. is a citizen, media and police co-operative program designed to involve the community in fighting crime.

Through this partnership we can all help to maintain and improve the quality of life within our communities.

Crime Stoppers is managed by a civilian board of directors who establish policies and authorize reward payments.

This program is not a burden to taxpayers because it is funded through fund-raising activities and donations by individuals and service groups.

An unsolved crime is highlighted in the local media appealing to the public for more information. The toll free tip line, 1-800-263-TIPS, is answered by trained Niagara Regional Police personnel who forward the information to the proper investigators.

All information is taken in strict confidence. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to call display and your call is never traced or recorded. You never have to give your name or testify in court.

You are issued a confidential code number which you must keep a secret in order to ensure anonymity. You are asked to call back periodically to be updated on your tip.

If your tip leads to the successful conclusion of a case, you become eligible for a cash reward of up to $1,000.

Crime Stoppers wants information on all types of crime. Rewards are offered for information on individuals for other criminal offences, the recovery of stolen property or the seizure of narcotics.

Canine Unit in training

Constable Jeff Hopkins with Police Service Dog (PSD) Herc (at left), Constable Bill Harris with PSD Rocky, Acting Sergeant Bob Wright with PSD Grief and Constable Scott Johnstone with PSD Saint. The Niagara Regional Police Canine Unit started in 1988 with five police service dogs and seven officers.

Photo by Janice Poole

JUSTICE

Doing time with Niagara Regional Police

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

Kidnappers, gun fighters and suicide bombers.

Although true to television, they are not realities to a member of the Niagara Regional Police.

I experienced this first hand on March 14 on a ride along.

After signing a release form forbidding me to disclose any pertinent or private information possibly overheard that day, we headed out from St. Catharines.

Accompanying me was Const. Craig Rudling, 34, of St. Catharines, the acting sergeant for the week from 11th Division in St. Catharines.

Duties of the acting sergeant include being aware of all police activities in the divisional area, responding to and making decisions regarding any call attended and doing administrative duties such as releasing prisoners on a promise to appear in court basis.

His present duty was to patrol St. Catharines, Thorold and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

At 9:51 a.m., a car drove by having no front plate. Rudling turned and followed the vehicle into an apartment complex.

After running the plate number, he found that the plate wasn't registered to that vehicle, the sticker was invalid and the driver was wanted on a warrant in another province.

Rudling issued the driver a ticket carrying a fine of $105 for a Highway Traffic Act violation and sent him on his way.

"He's serving life imprisonment on the instalment plan," said Rudling, explaining that he (the driver) commits crimes on a frequent basis.

Next on the agenda was breakfast but Rudling spent his time filling out the two incident reports — a supplementary report and a general inquest report.

After breakfast, we resumed routine patrol. After pulling over several more vehicles for missing one or more plates, Rudling was called into the station at 12:05 p.m. to act as uniform staff sergeant.

'It's different everyday. It's a good study of human nature — real human nature, not something you read in books.'
- Const. Craig Rudling

At 1:24 p.m. we left the station.

There was an incident involving a 25-year-old male who had threatened a neighbor's 11-year-old son, a woman who claimed that her ex-husband had again been making death threats to her and finally a mental patient (who had recently kicked the glass out in the back of a police cruiser) that had to be transported.

Const. Craig Rudling takes a break in Niagara-on-the-Lake while on routine patrol.
Photo by Janice Poole

"It's different everyday. It's a good study of human nature — real human nature, not something you read in books," said Rudling.

"I don't like the aspects of disease. I can handle a guy wanting to fight me but someone with a disease not only affects me but also my family."

Rudling has been a constable for 15 years. He is a qualified breathalyser technician.

He was a member of the Emergency Task Unit from 1986 to 1992. He was also a member of the Green Ribbon Task Force, acting as a liaison between police departments.

An average officer carries about 17 pounds of weight around when on duty.

The vest weighs five pounds, the gun weighs seven pounds and the remaining five pounds comes from the bullets, handcuffs, baton, pepper spray and radio.

"It's a good feeling when you can put away someone slimy because you're helping clean up the streets."

Extending the long arm of the law

By JANICE POOLE
Staff Writer

There are many branches of the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP). A few include canine, highway safety, public education, victim services and marine.

Covering one of Ontario's largest geographic regions, the NRP patrol an area of 1,862 square kilometres. The NRP provide policing and public safety services to about 391,000 residents in 12 communities.

The Niagara Regional Police Canine Unit started in 1988 with five police service dogs and seven officers. Throughout 1994, the dogs and officers participated in police dog trials and seminars.

Police services as distant as Sacramento, Calif. and Akron, Ohio are offering to pay for instruction from Sergeant Bob Wright, the trainer.

In 1994, two of the dogs were seriously injured. Police service dog Lee required knee surgery following a tactical call in Niagara Falls, Ont. Police service dog Ewo required surgery after a fall during a building search in St. Catharines. Lee recovered to return to active duty. Ewo retired while his human partner returned to uniform duties.

Operation Lookout is a community-based anti-drinking and driving program. There are more civilians on the road than police so anyone who spots a drunk driver can call with a make, model, color or license plate description. These calls allow police to respond to a call in record time.

The Reducing Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) program was government sponsored and implemented nationally in 1987. The RIDE program has become a recognized and respected project of the police service in Niagara.

It consists of spot checks, traffic enforcement and support from groups like Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD).

Teen Save was implemented in 1990 by Insp. Peter Gill. It went regionwide in 1994 to provide solutions to the increased alcohol consumption among minors.

Teen Save sends a strong message to Niagara's youth and the adults who supply them with alcohol. Adults caught buying liquor for minors receive a mandatory court date and a $300 fine.

Signing of the Safe School Committee protocol between the NRP and the Lincoln County Board of Education in 1994 resulted in a milestone year for Community Services.

Sergeant Laurie Leonard of the NRP recognized the growing phenomenon of youth gang activity in Niagara and across Canada. Sgt. Leonard composed the Safe School Committee Guide to include the best methods practiced to benefit police and the community.

The Safe School Committee protocol is designed to ensure fair and positive relations between the communities' students, teachers, support staff and police. Officers make age-related presentations to students increasing awareness of dangers outside the classroom.

For children in kindergarten to Grade 3, the program has traffic safety rules with Elmer the Elephant, a streetproofing program with a common sense approach to dealing with strangers and a sexual awareness program for little people called No Go Tell.

For Grade 4 to Grade 8 students, there is the VIP program - values, influences and peers. It also focuses on positive role models, violence, drugs, alcohol and the consequences of crimes.

For high school students, the program deals with repercussions of drinking and driving. This presentation is often accompanied by a film illustrating first-hand effects of alcohol-related traffic accidents.

It also focuses on substance abuse seminars and legal aspects of the Criminal Code of Canada such as the Liquor License Act, the Young Offenders Act and restricted weapons.

The Victim Services Unit within the NRP is one example of a program which looking after members of the community. Victim Services is a regionwide program staffed by three full-time officers.

It covers domestic assaults, missing persons, escapees from young offender facilities and criminal harrassment.

Working with local organizations such as the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre and Family and Children's Services, the officers are able to stay up-to-date on all of the latest counselling and therapy methods available to victims.

The Joint Forces Marine Unit (JFMU) has worked in co-operation with the RCMP since 1988 and is essentially Niagara's water police.

It is made up of two RCMP officers and two NRP officers who are responsible for policing Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, the Niagara River, the Welland Canal and any other waterbodies in the region.

The JFMU is responsible for search and rescue missions, enforcing the Criminal Code of Canada and provincial offences. Because it is a combined effort with the RCMP, it is a federal enforcement project dealing with the Canada Shipping, and Customs, Excise and Immigration Acts.

The Underwater Recovery Team (dive team) is another program of the JFMU. The team includes eight police divers and is used primarily to recover bodies and vehicles.

These are only a few of the many services provided by the NRP. Encompassing the area from Fort Erie to Grimsby and Wainfleet to Niagara Falls, the Niagara Regional Police Service continues to serve and maintain public safety.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Manseed top band at After Hours

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's second annual Battle of the Bands gave local bands a chance to show their stuff.

On April 2, 11 bands came to After Hours to compete for top spot in this year's competition.

Manseed, the first-place winners of the battle, showed definite promise. They received $500 worth of studio time at Prodigy Audio Resources for taking the top spot.

When asked about the name "Manseed," lead vocalist, Matt Difranco said that while they were tossing names around, he thought of his old band's logo, a penis. He went on to explain how worldwide war was attributed to male sexual frustration.

"It was just a joke," he said. "The philosophy of the name is long gone, but the name has stayed."

The band includes Difranco, a 20-year-old former Niagara College Journalism-Print program student and the only member to attend the college. Jay VanMooresel, 23 and Jay Hudson, 21, on guitars; Josh Case, 19, on bass and Dennis Ferron, 19, on drums.

"The line-up has been together for five months," said Difranco, the unofficial spokesman for the band. "We're hoping to do this for a career."

"It's like a job," he said of the band's regular 25 hours a week practice time.

The band has played locally with such groups as Varga, Monster Voodoo Machine, Hayden and Crackerhead. They have also played several spots in Toronto.

Their sound was described by Difranco as a mix between a heavy Faith No More and a heavy Stabbing Westward.

Manseed is in the process of recording its first album independently in Difranco's basement with the aid of his computer. They have remodeled the basement with foam in the ceiling, double fibreglassed the walls, sealed the windows, put in a thick wooden door and set up the recording equipment and computer in a corner.

"It's totally soundproof except for some vibrations in the floor."

They have focused all these efforts in the hope they will someday make the gold.

3 Long Men have best original song

Bands at After Hours compete for top spot

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

The second-place winners of this year's April 2 Battle of the Bands is the St. Catharines-based band 3 Long Men.

The band won the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) award and $100 in prize money for *Gone* the best original song.

With five members, their name doesn't mean what one might think. "It really means nothing," said Tawgs Salter, a guitarist and vocalist for the band.

Salter, 20, is a first-year Business Administration program student at Niagara College. He joined the 3-year-old band in September 1995.

The other members include guitarist/vocalist Pete Trcka, organist Mike Bedrosian, drummer Jason Lemaich and Rich Moore who is filling in on bass until they can find a permanent replacement.

Trcka, the one responsible for writing most of the material, describes his music as "retro-style pop rock with a lot of vocal harmonies."

The group gets together to rehearse as frequently as possible. "Whenever we get a chance, at least twice a week, we'll practice for about three hours, or if there's an important show we'll call a practice," said Trcka.

The band has opened for the Odds, the Waltons, Sara Craig and the Wild Strawberries and recently played at the Opera House and the 360 Club in Toronto.

They were also featured on the CFNY 1995 **102.1 New Music Search** CD.

This fall the band has planned an Ontario-wide college and university tour. They plan to have their independent CD in circulation by mid-June.

Bass player, Rich Moore and guitarist/vocalist, Pete Trcka play their stuff.
Photo by James M. Coote

Oasis move over, here comes Mersey

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Mersey ends off the year's shows at After Hours.

Oasis may not have the spotlight for too much longer, local band Mersey could be just the band to take the place of the Stone Roses.

For all of those who missed the last show, April 4 — you missed latest in the local pop-rock.

Although Mersey is actually a major river that runs through England, the name Mersey to the band is "true rock and roll with the best influences of the last 25 years."

Mersey is a four-piece band: Peter Romo lead vocals, Nicholas Philips on guitar and back up vocals, Mike Lukacs on bass, and Mike Luzier on drums.

Mersey has been alive for about two years and already they are in the process of recording their second album entitled **Stepping Out Tomorrow**.

Nicholas Philips (at left), Peter Romo, and Mike Lukacs play the pub. **Photo by Jenn Elliott**

Romo says the album is "kinda a tribute to the Stone Roses breaking up."

Romo says he wants people to relate to his songs, but he writes for himself first. "I get inspiration from how I felt that day, or how I felt about something I read. If people like it, that's great."

Presently, Mersey is touring locally while letting their CD "soak up internationally."

"I'm hoping to be touring in England by early 1997," says Romo.

This focussed and determined band wants to go all the way with their music, and won't settle for anything less.

"After all," says Romo, "you get in life what you settle for."

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

superGARAGE - purely Canadian

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

They are not just the boys next door.

With only four members, superGARAGE, named after the band's rehearsal space, managed to electrify the air with an astounding performance at After Hours during Comedy Jam '96 at Niagara College's Welland campus.

The lead singer, Marco Defelice, had energy to spare as he jumped, flailed and sang to the intense, alternate, purely Canadian music.

For 12 years Thorold-based guitarist Mike Palermo and Defelice, both 24, have been jamming out the tunes.

Bassist Rob Pessero and drummer Roger Habel Jr., complete the team.

In past, they played their music in local bars and clubs, but in September 1995, they won first prize in the **Q107 Homegrown** music contest. The prizes included $15,000 in cash, $10,000 worth of equipment and 50 hours studio time.

This big win led to the conception of their disk **duct tape,** which was released only months later, in December 1995, and was distributed by Page Publications.

"We didn't want to wait around so we thought we would put it out independently, right away," said Defelice.

The band has also made some videos. "Post Teen Crisis," which has aired on MuchMusic's Indie Spotlight, and "Except You," still in the works.

They will be featured on a compilation CD called S.C.E.N.E. '96 to be released this summer by Skunk records.

SuperGARAGE has made a dent in the music industry with air play on popular radio stations such as CFNY 102.1 and Q107 in Toronto, and 97.7 Hits FM in St. Catharines. "We only record radio hits. We're fully into selling out," said Defelice jokingly.

They have toured from Windsor to Quebec and will begin a 3 1/2-week tour to Detroit, Cleveland, Minnesota and Vancouver, then back east through Canada.

Asked if they had come across any strange, weird or funny things in their business, they all sat back and thought for a minute. Pessero told the story of the time the band was put on a triple bill with the Screaming Trees and Nirvana, but before they could play Kurt Cobain shot himself. "We have a running joke that he killed himself because we were playing with him."

When half the audience had cleared out after the comedy had ended, and Defelice was warming up in a back room in the Student Administrative Council building, an audience member commented on the situation.

Defelice turned toward her on his way to the stage and simply said, "Well, that's rock and roll."

Marco Defelico and Mike Palermo perform at After Hours
Photo by James M. Coote

A walk down Sunset Blvd.

By HEATHER HUNTER
Staff Writer

The band tunes their many instruments, the lights dim and the audience waits to take a walk down one of Hollywood's most famous boulevards.

I had the privilege of watching one of Toronto's hottest 1995 Tony Award-winning musicals by Andrew Lloyd Webber, starring Diahann Carroll.

The two-floor, 5,000-square foot Apotex Theatre at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto was filled with a full-house of anxious onlookers waiting to watch the epic production of Sunset Boulevard.

I had an excellent view of the stage, which was decorated with magnificent stage settings. The costumes were splendid as well as numerous.

Carroll, who played Norma Desmond, made more than 10 costume changes before intermission.

I thought the beginning of the play was a snoozer, but once the plot thickened, I was hooked. The singing was amazing, the special effects were brilliant, and the characters were extremely likable.

Carroll, who has performed anywhere from nightclubs to the Broadway stage to motion pictures and television, outdid herself, and literally stole the show as a forgotten movie star who couldn't accept the fact her career was over.

Brian Hill, who played the role of screen writer Joe Gillis, had such an amazing voice the audience would applaud after each song he sang.

The Wall Street Journal hailed Sunset Boulevard as Andrew Lloyd Webber's "masterpiece" and the best musical since "Gypsy."

If you don't have a chance to see the performance, you should pick up the soundtrack, and listen to the music recorded by the original Canadian cast.

If you love theatre performances with not a lot of dancing but with an in-depth plot and terrific musical lyrics, I recommend Sunset Boulevard.

For all you film BUFS

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

The same sticky floor is one of the only things they have in common.

But thanks to the Brock University Film Society (BUFS), Niagara residents are presented with an alternative to local cinema, which is almost completely American in origin.

"People from this area never get to see Canadian films," says Professor Barry Grant, 48, organizer and co-founder of BUFS.

"How many are there? Twelve or 13 big screens in St. Catharines? But none would ever show any Canadian films," says Grant. "There's just not the hype you get with the big commercial films.

"BUFS is dedicated to increasing the appreciation for and enjoyment of cinema as both art form and cultural expression. The society will screen films, from the classics to the most current, that otherwise would not be shown in the region," says the club's pamphlet.

Grant, director of the film studies program at Brock University, has taught at the school for 21 years in the film studies department.

"A lot of people compare Canadian films to American films," says Grant. "It's a different kind of cinema, a matter of acquiring experience and taste."

Originally showing films mostly for Brock students, BUFS was known as the International Film Series until last year. They have been showing films for about 25 years.

Grant says the initial organization of the International Film Series was the brainstorming idea of the four faculty members, but the "revamping" and organizing of BUFS in its current form is mostly due to his efforts.

"We could only show 15 mm film at the school. We wanted to show more. We could show more films on 35 mm so we made the arrangement with the downtown cinemas."

The selection process, says Grant, for what is shown is shared among the four faculty members and is based on " what they feel is important to the audience."

Some of this season's favorites have been **Crumb**, the unabashed documentary of quirky cartoonist Robert Crumb, and **Three Colors: Blue**, the first film in a theme-focused trilogy by director Krystof Kieslowski.

Grant says that it was because Blue got such a strong response that they decided to show the other two in the series.

In January, BUFS featured a special presentation of Bram Stoker's **Nosferatu: A Symphony of Terror**, directed by early '20's German filmmaker F.W. Murnau. The silent film was shown in Brock University's Sean O' Sullivan Theatre with musical score provided by local melodic duet, Vox Violins.

Grant says the public has reacted enthusiastically, and are pleased they don't have to drive to Toronto to see these films that would normally, never make it to the projection booth in Niagara.

As an added bonus for joining BUFS, sponsor discounts are offered by local merchants and downtown restaurants and cafes, which earned the society additional appreciation from its members.

Membership was $35 in September, and was reduced to $20 in January. Non-members are always welcome, and pay $5 for films in Brock's Podium Theatre, and $6 at the Town Cinemas.

Screenings have ended for this season and will begin again come September.

"BUFS seems to be doing very well, we have a good base of members now," says Grant "We appreciate the support and we hope to keep going."

Brain Candy

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Five Canadian actors make an all-American movie.

Paramount Pictures presents Kids in the Hall in **Brain Candy.**

Kids in the Hall on the big screen? Yep, that's right. They have made their very own motion picture, which was released in theatres April 12.

All five Kids, Mark McKinney, Bruce McCullough, Scott Thompson, Kevin McDonald and Dave Foley star in the movie, also representing several different — new and old — characters.

Of the 64 characters that were said to be seen, only about half actually made appearances throughout the movie.

Being a Kids in the Hall fan, I was dissapointed. Don't get me wrong though, I did like it and I did laugh, I just thought it was good as opposed to amaz-

What stood out the most was the plot. The storyline had just that; a story, which isn't Kids in the Hall style. Their sense of humor and style of writing is usually more sporadic, and often without any specific meaning at all.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

New music for summer and Christmas?

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

The Bethlehem Children's Chorus **Christmas Classics (Volume 2)**

Don't laugh! Christmas is just around the corner. This exhilarating CD contains all the Christmas classics . . . and more.

With sweet, angelic voices, the Bethlehem Children's Chorus can bring one from a lonely state of despair to an uplifting, whole-hearted feeling of bliss.

Voices range from a soothing alto to a crisp soprano. These boys and girls put their hearts into making "Oh, little town of Bethlehem" a real treat to the ears.

This "state of the art collection" is one of a volume of six from the Listener's Choice Christmas Classic Series. It is digitally mastered and performed in stereo.

Hearing the music of Christmas sung by the chorus offers a special reward to those who hear it, for the fresh and innocent sound captivates the real spirit of the season.

Buy a dozen and wrap 'em up. (A great gift for those you forgot to buy for).

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

Thorold-based indie recording artists, superGARAGE, generate a heavy, adrenaline pumping sound on their debut CD.

The six-track disk **duct tape** is a guarantee this band will be around for years to come.

With riveting percussion, driving base, slick guitar riffs and powerful vocals, this CD is the essence of the alternative revolution.

The lyrics add energy and intensity above and beyond the instrumental.

'The essence of the alternative revolution'

Post Teen Crisis, probably the most well known track, has had airplay on many popular radio stations in Toronto and around the Golden Horseshoe.

The fifth track, *Keep*, shows the diversity of their music with powerful harmonies that don't derail the hard-based style.

All the tracks on the disc are under five minutes with the exception on the hidden seventh track which is 8 1/2 minutes of hypnotic noise.

Released in December 1995, the album is a great recent addition to the new music scene.

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

SIANspheric blends the old with the new, the heavy with the light and the sensual with the bizarre.

This debut album, **somnium**, is distributed by Sonic Unyon Records, the same company that does the distribution for Hayden and treble charger.

The wa and reverb on both guitar and vocals gives the music a distant feel, while keeping the sound intense.

The band has orchestrated the songs in such a way the soft toned melody will calm and relax you and then, right when you think it's over, you're jolted with a quick and heavy finale.

There is a U2 style in the instrumental, and the vocals are engineered to overlap, surrounding the listener.

The melodies are fresh, with abstract reverberations giving the music a distant feel.

If you want something to listen to while reading, studying or while doing homework, then this is the stuff.

By CHRISTINE TURMAINE
Staff Writer

The Elevator Drops' first CD release **Pop Bus** will drive you to buy their next CD. It is definitely ear candy.

Loaded with bouncy, acoustic riffs and fantastic lyrics, the band's sound is quite diverse. Their music sounds like a combination of The Grateful Dead, Gary Newman, Pink Floyd and some eerie alien space crap — but it is *unequivocally* alternative.

One minute, solitudal waves crash on a seashore; the next, there is stony, fast-paced guitar.

Be a lemonhead (Beautiful Junkie) is sure to be their first major release, if someone would just give them the chance.

Pop Bus should take the Elevator Drops right to Lollapalooza.

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

The four member Jars of Clay's self-titled debut CD is packed with brilliant orchestration.

The songs are driven with an acoustic melody and backed by an entourage of instruments and vocal monies.

With the aid of the mandolin, violin, recorder, cello, fiddle, viola and oboe, in addition to the guitar, bass and drums, the Jars of Clay manage to arrange technically complex, but listener-friendly tunes.

The vocal harmonies are dynamic, they capture and hold you with the spellbinding intricacies.

Unlike many alternative bands, this group stays clear of the abrasive, melancholic style to which young people seem to flock.

'One word is needed to describe this band: talent'

The music has a fresh, clean sense about it. There are no shocking terms or sexual innuendoes to undermine the music. Only one word is needed to describe this band: talent.

Unfortunately, the track *Flood* is the only track radio stations have picked up on. The other nine songs, including a hidden track, are all worth a listen.

Pick it up, you won't be sorry.

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

This funky, cool rhythm, melodic music is an essential addition to any rhythm and blues fan's CD collection.

She Stole My Beer's 1992 release, **Sparks Off the Guardrail**, has the lively appeal of Eric Clapton's **Unplugged** album.

The jeering guitar compositions like those of Stevie Ray Vaughn and the vocal stylings of a young Paul Simon help to lure and hold the listener.

The title track, *Sparks Off the Guardrail*, has the driven feel of freespirited Canadian youth and the appeal of the carefree down and out.

Georgia White has an upbeat swing that is not unique in their material. They are the type of band that you could sit back and enjoy whiler having a beer with some friends.

The music is free of the pretension that can drag bands like this down. It's clean and feel-good.

The band wrote, composed and arranged all the songs on this disc. Maybe the lack of the commercial influence is what makes this album what it is.

U2 will return

The boys will be back

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Bono and the boys will be back on the road again in spring 1997.

The Next Adventure, a Toronto-based concert promotion company, has signed an exclusive deal with swagger Irish supergroup U2 to promote the band's upcoming worldwide tour, as reported in a March 29 Toronto Sun article.

The band's next album is expected to be released around the same time.

The Next Adventure was the same company responsible for the worldwide promotion of the Rolling Stones' Voodoo Lounge tour in 1994 and 1995, and is currently promoting David Bowie.

In the same article, Michael Cohl, owner of the company, said he was "extraordinarily pleased" with the deal.

"U2 is one of the pre-eminent rock groups in the world and I'm confident it's going to be one of the great tours. And we are very excited at being involved," he said.

'It's going to be one of the great tours.'

Cohl said he didn't know how different the 1997 tour would be compared to the technology encompassing spectacle's featured in the 1992 Zoo TV tour, and 1993 Zooropa tour.

"It's early," said Cohl. "There are no routings set or schedules, and it's very early. There's nothing that can be said about what, when, where, and all that."

Pick this pumpkin

By KEITH LAPP
Staff Writer

Simply Smashing!

The latest release from The Smashing Pumpkins is everything a CD should be.

The double CD release entitled **Mellon Collie** and the **Infinite Sadness** is the best thing the Chicago-based band has released to date.

The songs are extremely diverse from the rumpus *Bullet With Butterfly Wings* to the subdued *Tonight, Tonight*.

Some of the sounds on this CD at first hearing may shock some listeners. But the shock is short lived. It's strange, but after a few repeats the shock is more or less the result of the freshness of the music.

Lead singer Billy Corgan's typical straight forwardness and twisted lyrics are once again present on this CD.

With lines like, "Despite all my rage, I'm still just a rat in a cage," this CD cries out for salvation from one's own sorrow and apathy.

Instead of wallowing in the misery, Corgan exposes it in a way the listener can take solace in his lyrics.

With this release the Pumpkins have pushed back the boundaries of the alternative music scene.

Songs like *Zero* and *We Only Come Out at Night*, endeavor to create a new sound which in the end is both cleansing to the ears and the soul.

Perhaps this CD has created the perfect paradox.

That is it makes misery into a thing of great beauty.

Second-year film student creates an angel

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

The Paper Angel: women, beauty and passion, creatively joined together by words.

Film defined is a story or episode on film, with the illusion of movement, but to Luc K. Labrecque, 21, a second-year film student at Niagara College, "Film is like contact lenses, magnified through that glass eye known as a camera."

Labrecque is the writer and director of the 20-minute, student film — The Paper Angel. Being the most personal of all his works, he had to make this film, he says.

"The Paper Angel is a film about women, a film about change, and a film about relationships."

Labrecque says it is mainly about the poetry of women. "I sometimes felt that women were angels walking amongst us mortal and frail men.

"I love women, film, art and I love the idea of capturing passion and beauty at 24 frames per second."

Labrecque says films about sadistic violence, without any redeeming artistic or societal tone are tasteless.

He says his interest in film came from the passion and idea that film can affect and sometimes "annihilate" a person or audience. Although he rarely reads books, Labrecque says he writes a lot. "I fell in love with the written word. It became another tool in creating a work of art."

To be decisive, to make rational and logical decisions, and to be true to form with his initial goals and aspirations, are responsibilities of a director, says Labrecque.

"I have made it a personal policy to never, regardless of how tough a situation may be, compromise with a scene I may not like afterwards."

He says he doesn't care what lengths he may have to go to, to achieve a shot.

Labrecque says making a film involves working with people and understanding their strengths and weaknesses. "Making a film is not just setting up a camera and spitting away reels, it's about planning and charting out a conquest. My crew understands that, which makes them all superb people."

Labrecque says he has been referred to as an eccentric. "I do have lots of idiosyncrasies, it helps me cope with my environment and allows me the intestinal fortitude to go about my day."

He says it would bother him to be just another face in the crowd. "It's just not my cup of anthrax."

Other than his parents, his true inspirations come from "none other than the greatest filmmaker of all time — Stanley Kubrick." Labrecque says he was 13 when he first saw **A Clockwork Orange**. "The film devastated me, since I was so used to watching mainstream, geriatric bull—-."

Since then, he has watched the movie more than 40 times and says each time it inspired him more. "It is bold in its vision, daring in its direction and has an iron grip in the mechanics of film making."

Other directors such as Sam Peckinpah and Sidney Lumet have helped to guide his vision of film.

In the future, Labrecque says he wants to be doing anything but standing still, playing it safe and playing to the status quo. "It is often said that 'you only live once,' I sure as hell don't want to spend it doing something I don't like."

He says he is thankful to be surrounded by a film class that shares these notions. "These are great times to be living in.

"This is the good life.

"This is what film gave to me, now it's time for me to give back."

Luc K. Labrecque gets an overhead view.
Photo by Jennifer Elliott

BRTF students getting experience

By BRIAN HALLETT
Staff Writer

Niagara College radio students are gaining valuable experience.

Second-year Broadcasting Radio Television and Film (BRTF) program students have been sending information to radio stations throughout the Niagara Region. The stations include 1470 AM CHOW, 710 AM CJRN, 101.1 FM THE PLANET, 1220 AM CHSC, 105.7 FM CHRE, 610 AM CKTB and 97.7 FM CHTZ.

The students attend local council meetings three nights a week.

They take notes and get quotes on tape from the meeting. The written information is sent to the radio station by fax.

...this is a positive work experience...

Ron Tufts, a broadcasting instructor, said this is a positive work experience for the students of BRTF. Tufts and the students have been working on this project since January, but he says there is room for improvement. He is sending out a questionnaire to the radio stations.

An improvement might be to get the information to the radio stations as early as possible in the morning after the night meetings. That would involve having someone there to receive the information or finding a way to allow the college to turn on the machines.

The project started when Tufts asked local stations what the college students could do to help them. Radio station officials responded they needed people to cover local council meetings.

New SAC reports bits and bites

SAC will be earning their cash

By ADAM KIESWETTER
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) will be earning their money this summer.

Based on a new system SAC set up ensuring executive members actually work for their honorarium during their time at the SAC office this summer, SAC members will book in advance the weeks they choose to work, along with a list of specific tasks.

SAC considered that in past summers, members' efforts might not have been sufficient to warrant their honorarium. Thus, starting in May, besides signing up in advance for time periods and specific jobs to be done while at the office, members will be more closely monitored.

Currently, SAC's executive members are required to work 10 hours a week to receive their honorarium. The president receives $170; all other executive members get $140.

Also from SAC:

• The student activity fee will remain at $131.60 for the 1996/97 academic year. Part-time students will pay a fee that's proportional to their number of credits. SAC has also requested the fee be itemized on the invoice students receive so they can see exactly where their money is going; as, for example, it was cited most students don't realize almost half the fee goes towards athletics.

• The new technology fee will take effect in September 1996. Students will also see a $5 increase in the student centre fee, which has been hiked to help pay the building's mortgage off faster.

• Concerns by the satellite campuses' students on the intramural fee charged, and the fact they don't have on-site athletics facilities, were discussed. Some solutions included: the possible renting of a local arena; the building of sand volleyball courts, badminton courts and/or basketball court; and YMCA memberships for these students.

In the meantime, SAC has planned to book an entertainment or special activity for the satellite campuses during the first semester.

• Student representative Mary Carlesso, 20, a Business Administration program student, will be resigning from SAC due to co-op placement. Carlesso, whose resignation is effective April 30, was recognized by her fellow SAC members for her "hard work and commitment" to the council.

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NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA
NIAGARA COLLEGE

G.L.A.D. day a success

By JEFF GARRETT
Staff Writer

Be G.L.A.D. the teaching staff of Niagara College appreciates the students.

The second annual Great Learners Appreciation Day (G.L.A.D.) took place for students at the Welland campus on March 28.

Brigitte Chiki, of Welland, is the director of access and student success. She's responsible for co-ordinating the day, but the idea was first brought forward by a faculty member in the nursing division.

"There is no funding or budget for the G.L.A.D. program," said Chiki "but instead we invited members of the college community to show a gesture of appreciation that would show students we care."

The day was based mostly on generous donations by the teaching staff and faculty members. However, the Easter egg hunt came out of the Student Services budget.

"The looks on the students' faces showed the appreciation they have for the day," said Chiki.

'it's good the teachers value us' —Bueitenwerf

"In terms of success, I'd say it's successful and I look forward to next year's G.L.A.D. day.

"For next year, we're going to plan sooner. It was hard this year for early planning with the college reorganization," said Chiki.

Welland wasn't the only campus that took part. Satellite campuses in Niagara Falls and St. Catharines have also organized their own events.

"The volunteers are great," said Chiki. "They just come forward. There's a critical group out there who just waits for an opportunity like this one and they pull through."

Chiki said "teachers and faculty look forward to this day because it gives us a chance to say thanks and acknowledge the students."

One of the G.L.A.D. volunteers is Leon Lowry, of Welland, who is in the Volunteer Management program.

"I like the program because I have a fairly good memory for numbers and names," said Lowry. "That's why I also like to help the Big Brothers and Big Sisters at the United Way."

Lowry helped run the ballot box for the day for the prize draws.

"I'm just one of the many volunteers here to help. I like it."

Dianna Buitenwerf, a student in the Child and Youth Worker program, said she knew about the G.L.A.D. day.

"I think it's good that the teachers actually value us," she said.

Paul Demarchi didn't really know what G.L.A.D. was. Demarchi, a student of the Correctional Worker program, said "I think it's good because it shows the teachers appreciate the students."

Stacy Krick, a student in the Child and Youth Worker program, said "I wasn't aware it was going on."

Krick wasn't involved with anything during the day, but she said "Now that I know about it, I think it's a good idea because sometimes our school is out of focus, and this brightens things."

"I think it's a good idea because the college is giving back to the students," said Sonny Corleone, a student in the Business Retail Management program.

ESL teaching rewarding

By HYOJEONG KIM
Staff Writer

More and more people are coming to Niagara College from other countries.

Why? The answer, it appears, is to study English.

"They are all motivated. They are open to learning about different things," said Susan Vandenboom, who has been teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) at Niagara for four years.

Vandenboom, 35, of Fonthill, said she started out as a French teacher, but after two years of teaching English in Japan, she decided to teach ESL and took some courses in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL) at York University in Toronto and at Brock University in St. Catharines.

She said the students, when they come to Niagara College, are often shy, homesick and dependent, but while they are in the ESL program, they become independent and feel more and more comfortable.

"If they graduate the program from here, then it's just wonderful because I can see such a development."

But Christie Salmon, 25, of St. Catharines, said she finds it difficult to teach ESL students when she can't get an idea "from my head into their heads."

"I try different vocabulary, and I try different ideas, but they still don't understand me sometimes," said Salmon.

Salmon said she's been teaching at Niagara since April 1995.

She said she worked one year for the Royal Bank and taught only in the summer because she couldn't find a job when she got her bachelor of education in TESL at Brock University.

"I love to see my students understand things for the first time. I have students from Japan, Korea, Quebec, Mexico and Taiwan all in the same class and I really like the diversity."

Professor Mary Lou Eden of ESL said she often takes "the kids (ESL students)" to her house and bakes bread with them.

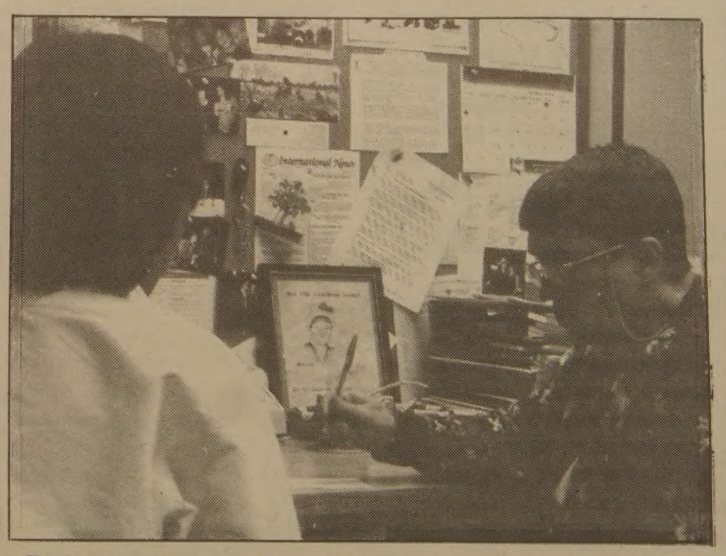
Eden, 55, of Beamsville, has been teaching at Niagara for nine years.

"If you get into teaching and you really enjoy it, there's no other job that you could be satisfied with," said Eden.

She said she taught in the English department and developed a course for Canadian immigrants in the General College department before she joined the ESL program in December 1992.

Eden said teaching international students is "very rewarding" because interacting with the students, teachers get to understand their language and how their language works.

"I like to prepare lessons, I love the time in the classrooms and I like the interaction with the kids."



Professor Mary Lou Eden (right), of English as a Second Language, counsels one of her students.

Photo by Hyojeong Kim

Local school fights cuts

By KEITH LAPP
and OWEN BAGGOTT
Staff Writers

Governmental cutbacks to education are being felt throughout Ontario.

However, students at Centennial High School in Welland are trying to do something about them.

More than 50 students from Centennial took to the streets on April 10 to protest the teacher layoffs by the Niagara South Board of Education.

"We support our teachers. we support our future," was the main slogan of the protesters.

A student carried a sign that said, "Honk if you like cheese dogs and are against teacher cuts," while others took the protest more seriously and carried signs that targeted the cuts by the provincial government.

One of the student organizers, Jamie Treschak, 16, a Grade 10 student, said, "It's affecting us the most."

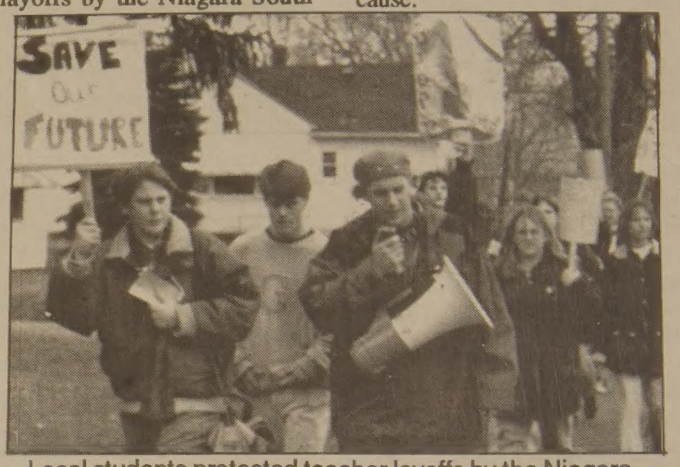
He said Centennial is losing nine teachers in August.

Treschak said the protest was organized because "we want to stop it (the cuts) before it goes too far."

Treschak said the school's principal has been "supportive," but originally the students had planned a camp-out at the school. However, they were informed by school administration they would be charged with trespassing if they proceeded with the camp-out.

Treschak said the Harris government and the school board are "equally responsible" for the cuts.

Danny Ditiello, a Grade 12 student, said he took part in the protest because "it's for a good cause."



Local students protested teacher layoffs by the Niagara South Board of Education.

Photo by Keith Lapp

He said his concern was for children in elementary school. By the time they get to high school, the education system will not be adequate, he said, adding he thinks school should be more than just math, science and English.

Rebecca McHugh, 16, a Grade 11 student, said "what he's (Harris) doing is needed to some extent, but not to the extent he's doing it."

McHugh said the students chose to protest after school because the it would be an oxymoron for students to cut class to protest cuts.

Sean Hubert, 17, Grade 12, said the protest was a good thing because "they're showing support for the teachers." He said "there's nothing you can do to stop the cuts."

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Summer employment search on

Employment centre helps

By BECCA VERSAEVEL
Staff Writer

The heat is on.

Once again, it's time to find summer employment.

A good place to start is at Niagara College's Employment Services in the Simcoe building, Room S101.

Staff will show students how to apply for jobs and give advice on creating effective resumes.

A summer job board is located outside the office and gives students the chance to investigate a variety of employment areas.

Janet Forfar, a career services officer at the college's Employment Services, says she feels there will be as many jobs as last summer but with more variety.

"You have to be assertive and persistent," says Forfar. "It takes time and it takes effort. Basically, you must get going if you haven't started already."

Forfar says resumes should be easy to read, concise, have good quality printing on good quality paper and be without errors.

As for pay, the usual summer employment scale in the tourism and service industry is not traditionally high, she says, adding for higher pay, look to utilize skills in business organizations.

'You have to be assertive and persistent' Janet Forfar

Another option for summer employment involves travel.

Students can check for openings at resorts or camps posted on the summer job board or at the college's Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls.

Forfar says for those who have worked for a local franchise in the past and been disappointed, the key is to do a lot of research.

Look into how you will be paid, she says, cautioning you should note if it is commissioned sales or an hourly, daily or weekly rate.

Find out the history of the company or try to talk to a former employee.

"If your pay cheque or money is not forthcoming, do not let it go on too long," says Forfar.

The time to look for a job is now. Take advantage of the extra time before high school students join the search.

Working the extra month or so should also help out with next year's tuition hikes.

What are employers looking for?

"Someone who is flexible, dependable, hard working and able to work well with a group or on their own," says Forfar. "Someone who has a little bit of initiative and motivation."

Rolling in the dough

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

The Cookie Monster didn't get invited.

Fortunately for the 14,000 cookies and 1,250 mincemeat tarts baked by second-year culinary students at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, the blue guy didn't show up.

The fundraiser was held to bring in money for the Culinary Skills Scholarship fund, organized by Tara-Lynn Tarrajos, Amy Tipton Johnson and with help from Chef David Gibson.

During November, orders were taken for chocolate chip, thumbprint, spice and piped shortbread cookies by first and second-year culinary students.

The baking was done on Dec. 8 and 9, 1995.

Funds were raised through raffle-ticket sales for a gingerbread house made and donated by Chef Aggie Downes.

The success of the fundraiser hints that it might become an annual event.

A special mention goes to Stuart Greig, a second-year culinary student, for his donation of 50 pounds of butter.

Niagara's best kept secret

By JENNIFER HARDING
Staff Writer

One the most important places at Niagara College is perhaps its best kept secret.

The health centre, at the Welland campus in the Lundy Wing, is open year-round and is constantly busy.

Staffed by a full-time registered nurse, Carolyn Hurst, as well as a doctor who comes in one morning a week, the centre is equipped to service all your health needs.

Open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., the health centre provides someone to talk to about any health concern, appointments with the doctor and a quiet place to rest if you aren't feeling well.

The problem is that many students don't know it exists.

Only visual publicity of the health centre is available, Hurst said, through the newspaper and bulletin boards.

"If you don't get out and about, no one knows you're here," she said.

While the health centre is able to assist those who have a health concern, Hurst said that it is geared to prevention.

The health centre has held many informational events this year to stress just that. A hepatitis B clinic was held last summer, and the centre participated in sexual awareness month in February and AIDS month in September. There was also a health fair in the winter which brought in many groups from the region to promote awareness about the various health issues they represented.

Hurst said the centre also completes the paperwork for students who must meet health requirements for their placements in various programs.

It is "very important" to make sure a health concern doesn't become a full-time problem, as can happen with a student's busy schedule, Hurst said.

"Many students say 'You sound like my mother,' and that's right!"

It is better to take a day off to get better than to have a problem persist, she said.

"Health comes first — you can't do well if you don't feel well."

Toys 'R Niagara College

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

The Hospitality and Tourism Centre is doing what it can to help people.

The college's Niagara Falls campus is reaching out to the community.

The Niagara Falls Tourism Centre had a banner year last year for raising contributions for its community.

In the months of October and November 1995, second-year students at the Hospitality and Tourism campus collected cash donations, toys, and clothing for battered women and children.

Hamburger and hotdog sales raised an additional $550 for various charities.

The donations were wrapped, put into Christmas baskets, and distributed to Nova House and Women's Place in St. Catharines.

More than 120 baskets and 500 pieces of clothing found their way into the hands of those in need during last Christmas.

In recognition of the Tourism Centre's generosity, they received a letter of thanks from Elaire Hutchison, executive assistant of Women's Place.

Along with the letter was a special thank-you drawing from the children who received the baskets.

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Banquet honors college retirees

By AMANDA J. MANSFIELD
Staff Writer

Niagara will be holding its fourth annual Retirement Banquet at the Ameri-Cana Resort & Conference Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont, on Friday, June 14 at 6 p.m.

The college decided five years ago to create the retirement sub-committee to honor retirees as a whole as opposed to individual departments.

"The first and major task for the committee was to provide a first-class event," said Ed Wilson, the professional development retirement committee representative.

"There is expected to be 200 people, if not more at this year's banquet," said Wilson.

Having almost 40 association members retiring this year due to eligible age or financial incentive for early retirees, the college is seeing its largest group ever leave. In past years at the banquet, each retiree has been

Niagara College says goodbye to retirees at Ameri-Cana Resort and Conference centre

Unfortunately, with only an hour symposium only a short introduction of each will be given, along with a gift and plaque honoring each retiree.

"There have been many concerns about problems with the program," said Wilson. "This year we promise a shorter and more exciting one."

Peter Rylander, co-ordinator of athletics, is one of the retirees this year.

Rylander is retiring after 27 years at Niagara.

"I'm looking forward to the banquet. It will be the biggest yet," he said.

Rylander, who is a member on the retirement committee, does not know if he will keep his position on the committee.

"I suppose if they still want me on it I might stay. There are other retired members that have remained on it," said Rylander.

As for the future, Rylander plans to concentrate more of his time to his favorite sports and travelling.

Larry Taylor, formerly the director of the Media and Design division, is looking forward to his retirement.

After 26 years at Niagara, Taylor is moving north to Lakefield, Ont., just outside Peterborough with his wife.

"The banquet has usually been a good time. It's nice to congratulate all the retirees," said Taylor.

Cuts good for welfare bums

By PENNI TONEGUZZO
Staff Writer

A major dilemma for many people is welfare after Mike Harris and his government began a crisis for the citizens of Ontario.

For all of the people who fit into disabled, single parent, student, retired or old age categories, by all means I understand your cry for help to the government, but for all the lazy, self-centred idiots who wish to sit on their butts and collect a monthly cheque, think again.

How much intelligence does it take to put out a few resumes weekly to try to get a job or some kind of income? What happened to the drive Ontario citizens had?

I know there aren't many jobs since Harris came into the picture, but as a student I need assistance with money for college, which I HAVE to pay back. When I step into the workforce, I don't want to have to pay for bums who take the relaxed, laid-back lifestyle.

We often wonder why so many accidents occur where the "not so injured" can sue for thousands. Think about it! It's usually a setup from one of the bums who wish not to lift a finger their whole life. Trust me, I know from experience. How would you like the hassle from a government beggar who is suing you for over $100,000?

For those who truly need welfare's assistance, I feel terrible about the cutbacks. For the others, I hope you've woken up from your getaway dream and seen the light at the end of the tunnel where there are blood, sweat, and tears!

College graded in survey for business students

Have you ever thought about how Niagara College could be better?

Recently, nine second-year Business Administration-Operations Management program students were asked by their industrial psychology teacher to rank the strengths and weaknesses of the college.

David Thomson asked them to grade the college in five categories including academics, teachers, social atmosphere, cultural events and organizational/management.

The objective of the project was to allow students an opportunity to learn how an organizational psychologist or consultant in organizational design conducts an organizational assessment in order to make longterm improvements.

As students in the Operations Management program, Thomson says part of their education is knowing how surveys are designed and how the results are used in the process of organizational planning and change.

Even though they were the ones to take the survey, Thomson says the process of organizational development should definitely be understood by students in other business programs.

The survey was filled out by a small sample of students, therefore, the attitudes expressed may not necessarily be representative of most business students, says Thomson.

The main issues were cuts to higher education and the threat of a strike by teachers.

Ranked the lowest on the survey (where improvements may be needed) were more cultural activities needed at the college, too much emphasis on sports, and students having a say in many decisions.

Weaknesses needing improvement at the college included textbook changes, covering everything from their cost to the uselessness of some of the materials purchased.

It was suggested that student activities take place on Thursday or Friday when students are "geared up" for the weekend rather than in the middle of the week.

The survey said there was a wide range of courses for students to choose from.

"We feel the information we learn in class is up-to-date with industry standards and the general feeling is that we are getting 'a good quality of education.'"

Teachers ranked high on the survey with comments such as they were "helpful" and "approachable."

Those doing the survey included Angelo Allegra, Mary Carlesso, Merek Cybula, Vanessa Farkas, Merleina Hakh, Patti Lacharity, Margaret Santoro and Kevin Thomas.

A final comment on the survey stated: "There should be more emphasis on school spirit."

Soap star visits homeshow

Large crowd expected

By MELISSA LABBE
Staff Writer

The young and the restless are coming home.

Actress Melody Thomas Scott, from televison's The Young and the Restless, will be the major attraction at the Niagara Living '96 Homeshow.

The Young and the Restless star Melody Thomas Scott visits the Niagara Living '96 Homeshow

The show is being held May 3 to 5 and Scott will be making an hour-long appearance on Saturday, May 4.

This is the first time a soap star has been asked to come to the show.

"We (the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce) have made a lot of changes to the show. We wanted one major attraction to bring people in to see the changes," said Dolores Fabiano, executive director of the Welland/Pelham Chamber of Commerce.

One of the changes is the location. The show moved from the Welland Arena to the Niagara Regional Exhibition Grounds. The grounds are "twice the size of the arena," which will better accommodate the huge crowd expected to come out to see Scott.

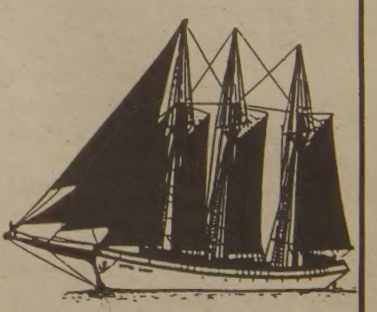
College sailing school lifting its anchor

By JENNIFER GIBSON
Staff Writer

Continuing Education has turned over a new reef.

For the past five years Niagara College has offered Sailing School to those who wish to get out on the open water.

Continuing Education has set up a Sailing School with courses ranging from a one-day beginners course for $99 to a 27-hour basic keelboat cruising course for $350. There is also a five-day Junior Sailing School for youths ages 12 to 16.



Registration for the sailing courses began March 18. The courses begin the first week of May and run until October.

The majority of students choose to get started with the 27-hour basic keelboat cruising course designed for the landrover with little or no experience on the water.

Certified Canadian Yachting Association instructors teach the courses and students who have completed the course, or experienced sailors, can take the basic cruising challenge exam for $175 and get their certification with the Canadian Yachting Association.

Graduates of the program have the opportunity to join the Niagara College Sailing Club. As a member of the club you will have access to the boats from May through to October after selecting a seasonal membership. Spouses of seasonal members can select a spousal membership for only $99.

SPORTS CORNER

Former CFLer talks past and present

By KELLY VERDENHALVEN
Staff Writer

He's at the 20...the 10...TOUCHDOWN!

In 1981, fresh out of Simon Fraser University in British Columbia on a football scholarship, Dan Ferrone of Oakville, Ont., became the Toronto Argonauts' offensive left guard.

Making $48,000 a year, Ferrone played 11 years with the Argos and one year with the Calgary Stampeders. Leaving the Canadian Football League (CFL) in 1992 with a Grey Cup ring from 1983, he ventured into other career opportunities.

Ferrone, 37, born in Oakville, owns Ferrone Ventures, which provides printing and marketing for his roofing company that has expanded across North America. He is in charge of the CFL's Players' Association and with his wife's help runs Ferrone Fitness Centre on Speers Road in Oakville.

"The greatest thing is I get to wear sweat pants and a T-shirt to work," says Ferrone.

During his time in the CFL, John Candy, a Canadian actor, left a lasting impression with Ferrone about dealing with fame.

"I always make myself accessible," says Ferrone. "If they (the media) know everything about you, there are no questions left unanswered."

He is fond of his three children, Danielle, 6, Marco, 11, and Matthew, 13. He says working so close to home makes it easy to be a dedicated parent and a big part of his children's lives. His added bonus everyday is working with his wife Barbara.

"My wife is the key thing, she keeps everything in focus."

Spare time is usually spent with his children watching a video or good sitcom on television.

"We'll sit down and watch a video together, but now I have to fight with them because they want to watch sports and I don't want to," says Ferrone.

He is the chef of the family making most of the meals for the household and takes pride in his cooking. He says he is no gourmet cook, but his son says he is the second best after his grandmother.

He describes himself as a "loyal" and "honest" man who "unfortunately likes to be the centre of attention."

Ferrone has helped many causes including the Multiple Sclerosis Society and is fighting to keep the Canadian quota in the CFL. (The quota means CFL teams must have a specific number of Canadians.)

"It's sad that I have to fight for Canadian jobs in Canada," says Ferrone.

High school coach, Vern Lusyk was another who saw potential in Ferrone, but Ferrone says family support and his wife, who he met when he was 15, gave him the edge to his success in football.

"The kids are a big part of why I am so fortunate and that I get to work with my wife and we enjoy each other," says Ferrone with a smile.

No one had to push him to play football. He says he loves the sport. However, during training camp at Simon Fraser University, he had his bags packed to come home. After his head coach found out, Ferrone was brought in for a talk. The talk gave him the boost he needed to carry on his "great" effort, he says.

"Do on to others as you would have others to do on to you," says Ferrone, adding his motto in life has passed on to his children and everyone he comes in contact with. His biggest pet peeve is people not trying their best. He says he cannot understand why people work at a job that they are not happy with.

"There are seven days in a week and I work all seven. I like the non-routine of my position."

Meanwhile, the fight to keep the Canadian quota for the CFL goes on. Ferrone can be found at the gym everyday, plunging toilets one minute and taking calls from the L.A. Times (large Los Angeles newspaper) the next.

"My life is never on an even keel."

NBA

Rookie watch

By KEITH LAPP
Staff Writer

The Toronto Raptors' Damon Stoudamire is looking for recognition.

As the National Basketball Association winds down its regular season schedule, there's one contest that's of particular interest to Raptor fans, the race for the Rookie of the Year award.

Although Stoudamire appears to be the odds-on favorite to win the award, he's receiving some stiff competition from the Philadelphia 76ers' Jerry Stackhouse.

Currently Stackhouse leads Stoudamire by less than one point average a game. Stackhouse, averaging 19.2 points a game along with 3.7 rebounds and 3.9 assists, is out for the remainder of the season.

Stoudamire is also expected to sit out the remainder of this season.

Stoudamire leads the expansion Raptors in scoring. He is expected to garnish a majority of the votes. Stoudamire has proven he can be a team leader on the floor and in the dressing room. To go along with Stoudamire's 19 points a game, he has been averaging four rebounds and 9.3 assists.

There's no question (at least in the minds of Raptor fans) Stoudamire should win the rookie award. The only concern is will Stoudamire's relative obscurity in U.S. markets hamper his chances to get the recognition he deserves.

The American invasion of Canada's game

By RANDY SYER
Staff Writer

The yankees are coming, the yankees are coming.

Yes, that's right the Americans have swarmed in and taken over our great game of hockey.

It all started in 1988 when a southern California team (Los Angeles Kings) threw their money at us and took our great leader Wayne Gretzky.

After our leader (Gretzky) was captured, we were practically beaten but Canada didn't go down without a fight winning the next two Stanley Cups (Calgary in 1989 and Edmonton in 1990).

The Americans wanted more and they filled the National Hockey League (NHL) offices with sneaky men who would steal our great game.

The NHL figured the only way to stop us from winning the Stanley Cup was to put more American teams in the NHL.

They granted San Jose, Tampa Bay, Florida, and Anaheim franchises while snubbing Hamilton a chance for an NHL team.

That wasn't enough for the Americans they wanted more. So they stole Quebec from under our noses and moved them to Colorado.

Canada thought they were done, but the assault didn't stop. They needed another team.

After fighting to keep Winnipeg for an extra year, the Yanks picked our pockets and took the Jets placing them in Phoenix.

To make matters worse, the Phoenix owners named the team the Coyotes.

What the heck do coyotes have do with hockey anyway?

We can't keep up with the Americans. We're falling behind. Next to go south will probably be the Edmonton, Calgary, and Ottawa franchises, leaving us with Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal. The only three teams that no matter how well they do, they'll sell out.

With the Fox television network new high-tech puck, the new rule practically eliminating fighting in hockey, and the theft of our Canadian teams, the Americanization of hockey is almost complete.

It's just too bad they can't develop great hockey players. Give it time.

Blue Jays hit rock bottom

By KEITH LAPP
Staff Writer

Toronto Blue Jays' fans better get used to life in the basement.

The American League East basement that is.

Despite Toronto's relatively descent start to this season, it's highly unlikely the Jays will finish anywhere near the .500 mark.

Simply put, the Jays are an average baseball team at best. Except when of course compared with the better of the triple A affiliates.

The Jays' troubles start at pitching and continue right on through to management.

The Toronto pitching staff is anything but sensational. The most frightening aspect of the starting pitching is that (at least in the early going) Juan Guzman appears to the ace of the staff.

With an even worse bullpen, the Jays will have trouble winning in the late innings, which in baseball is essential to a team's success.

The loss of players like multi-gold glove winners Devon White, Roberto Alomar along with pitcher Al Leiter, only compound Toronto's troubles.

The addition of veterans like Otis Nixon, Charlie O'Brien and Juan Samuel will help fill the void somewhat, but overall the ability of the Jays to win on a consistent basis will be greatly affected.

There's little hope that the Jays will make it to the post-season any time soon.

Being Toronto is a relatively young and inexperienced team, it's only reasonable to expect the Jays will finish at best, no better than fourth in their division.

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.Look for the PALM TREE!!!

Dental program will be tuition funded

By JAMES M. COOTE
Staff Writer

It's a tuition hike of a different sort.

The Niagara College Board of Governors passed a resolution for the Allied Dental Health programs to become fully tuition funded on Feb. 29.

Because of funding cuts to Ontario colleges and universities and the high cost of these programs, the college had the option to close the programs or find an alternate funding solution. So, the tuition is being raised from $2,000 to $8,890 a year.

Along with the re-organization of funding, the one-year Dental Assistant program will be upgraded to the Intraoral Dental Assisting program.

This upgrade is designed to "allow students to prepare for the full range of procedures anticipated to be legislated in Ontario," says a memo sent out to the applicants of the programs.

"The Council on Dental Accreditation has confirmed that Niagara College may apply for accreditation of its Intraoral Dental Assistant program (Level 2) in 1997," says the memo.

In past years, acceptance into the Dental Hygiene program was based on the student's grades in the Dental Assistant program, but now the Dental Hygiene program will be changed to a direct-entry two-year program and acceptance will be based on high school grades.

Dental assistant students, from left, Stephanie Moore and Karen Funk said they might not return to the college next year because of an increase in tuition.

Photo by James M. Coote

However, the changes have upset many of the graduating dental assistant students.

Karen Funk, 20, of Beamsville, will be graduating from the Dental Assistant program this year.

She said emphatically she was not returning. "I would rather just upgrade to expanded duties because hygienist wages are coming down anyway."

"I am not coming back because I'm not going through a two-year program when I can go to another school and do it in one at a cheaper cost," said Stephanie Moore, 19, from Tillsonburg, another dental assistant student.

Anya Staszko, 20, of St. Catharines, agrees. "The costs are just way too outrageous. Hygiene would put me in debt."

In spite of these sentiments, Carole Ono, program co-ordinator, remains confident there will be sufficient enrolment. "I have received 20 to 30 calls a day and only two callers indicated that they couldn't come because of tuition hikes."

Ono has reason for her confidence.

A Niagara College graduate placement statistics pamphlet, outlining the employment status of 1993 and 1994 graduates, states 58 per cent of the dental assistant students are employed in a related field and making from $13,000 to $26,000 a year.

Ninety-two per cent of the graduates of the Dental Hygiene program — those who went on for the two more years — are employed in a related field and are making from $39,000 to $60,000 a year.

"While things look negative, you can see the silver lining," said Ono. "The positive side that comes from situations like this is that it allows you to make changes that should have been made a long time ago . . . changes to bring us into the 21st century."

Bible meeting

By KEITH LAPP
Staff Writer

If you are a practicing Christian attending Niagara College and looking for guidance and fellowship among other Christians, then perhaps the Christian Fellowship meeting is for you.

Although established last year, it was not until this past year its format became more structured and organized. The weekly Bible study meetings are attended by members of the student body and college faculty.

One student involved in the group is Peter Gerritsma, 24, of Welland, a first-year Early Childhood Education student.

Gerristma said the study group allows people with the "same values and beliefs" to come together to study and interpret God's word.

He said along with analyzing passages from the Bible, the group discusses, within the context of God's word, present-day "social issues and any personal problems" members may be having.

People who attend the meetings are encouraged to offer "insights" on any passage or topic, said Gerritsma.

Over the past year, the group has been involved in activities at the college. They participated in Wintercourse and created a display for Sexual Awareness Week.

Gerritsma said the display concentrated on the idea of "salvation" and the idea sex should be"only in the confines of a marriage," with an overall message of abstinence.

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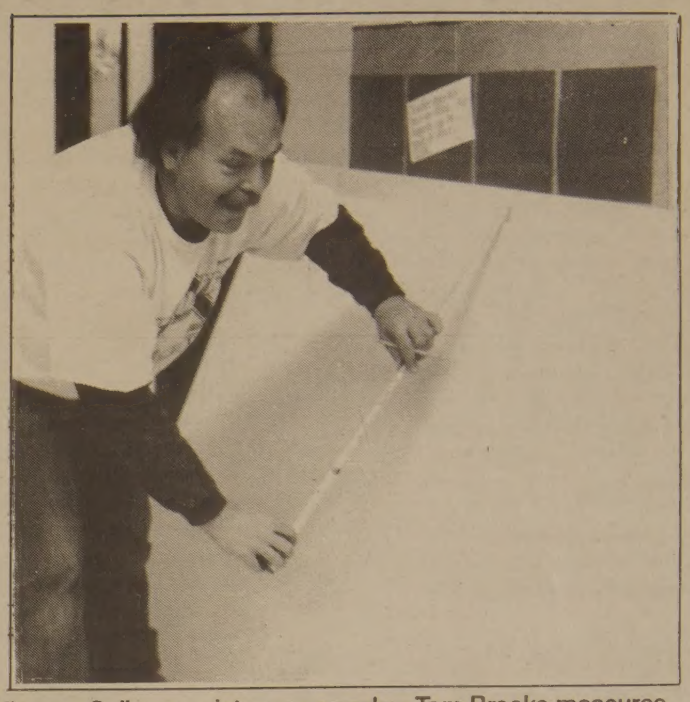
Catching some air off the steps at St. Catharines public library.

Photo by Adam Kieswetter



Niagara College maintenance worker Tom Brooks measures his cut.

Photo by Melissa Labbe

CRNC music director Jason Hughes hoots and hollers for Niagara College students.

Photo by Jennifer Elliott

Niagara College student Christopher Burke strums his stuff for students.

Photo by Adam Kieswetter

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Graduate gives tips on business in China

By RICHARD MANCUSO
Staff Writer

A graduate of Niagara College's International Trade post-diploma program spoke about business in China.

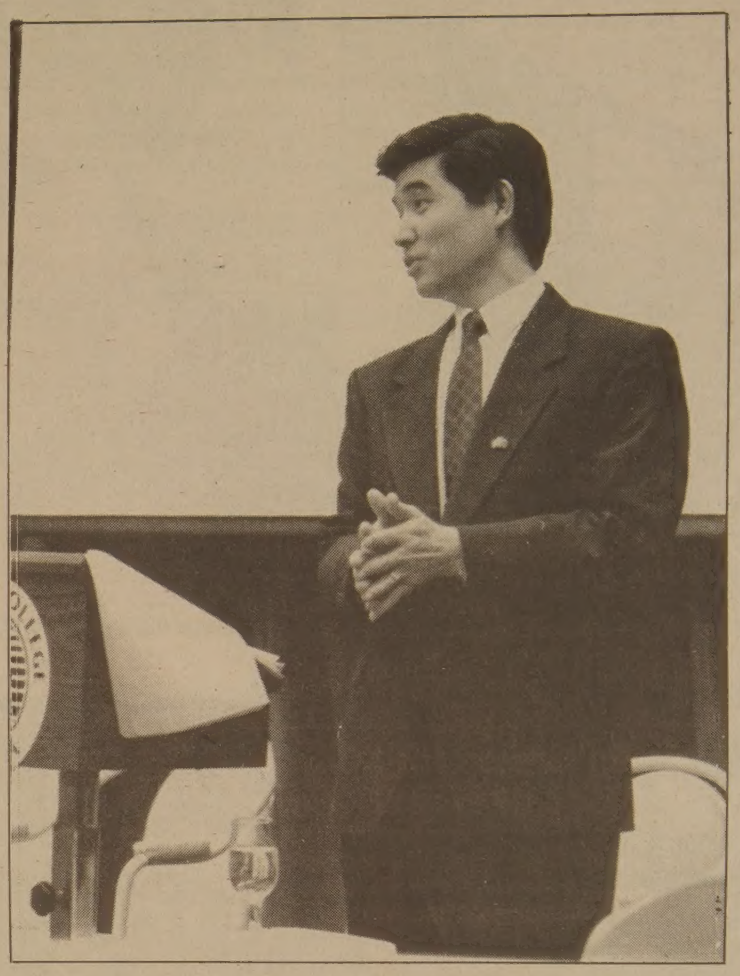
Youjia Wu's lecture Thursday, April 11 at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls was the second in the 1995-1996 Speakers Series from Niagara College. Niagara holds two lectures every year, one dealing with social issues and one dealing with business.

Wu gave tips about doing business with companies in China. He gave advice, such as respecting culture and having an open mind. Wu also said sometimes it takes three to five negotiations to sign one contract.

Wu also warned about "losing face." A company may agree to a contract in face-to-face negotiations but may call a day later and say the deal is off. The company won't tell you to your face so you won't be embarrassed publicly.

Wu was heavily involved in a deal between General Motors and a Chinese company over the sale of assembly lines from a closed St. Catharines GM factory. The deal was made but eventually fell through after two years.

Wu came to Canada in 1988 as part of an exchange program between the Chinese government and Niagara College. After majoring in English and graduating from university in China, Wu took a job teaching English as a second language.



Niagara College graduate, Youjia Wu lectures at Speakers Series.

Photo by Richard Mancuso

When Wu came to Niagara College he was involved in the Homestay program and lived with a family in Welland. He was able to stay in Canada after completing his year at Niagara because of the student situation in China and Tiananmen Square in 1989.

"The Canadian immigration door was wide open to students and people who were trained or experienced in North American business, education or culture," said Wu.

He studied at Brock University in St. Catharines to improve his teaching skills, but due to his financial situation, and being offered a job, Wu didn't finish his studies at Brock.

Later, Wu took the International Trade post-diploma program at Niagara College. "With all of the knowledge and tools that the International Trade program gave me I was able to get the GM contract."

"In fact, I went in with a three to six-month contract but because of my willingness to do the best job that I can and the knowledge, cultural awareness and communication skills I had acquired, they were able to keep me on until the end of the contract."

Wu said he would recommend the International Student program and Niagara College to anyone.

"There is a lot that Niagara College could offer that other institutions, geographically or culturally, are not able to offer."

Wu has lived extensively in big cities and said being settled in a small city like Welland and then St. Catharines was quite different.

"In a small city, it's good for studying and the people are friendlier," said Wu. "You get lost in big cities and [working for] big companies. I like small cities and I would like to stay in the area."

Wu said it's too bad there's not more going on in the area with respect to doing business with China. But he said he is sure as Canada reaches out to Asia, and everyone is trying to get into the market, there will be more activities.

Wu is starting his own business offering services in consulting, translating, interpreting, providing orientation or language training to companies.

"Helping some of the small companies that do not specialize in export or international trade, that's what I think I'll be doing a lot of from now on," he said.

"If companies approach me to work on a contract for the next two years, or if they need me to translate a contract or to go with them to China to negotiate a contract, in any capacity, my service is always available."

Essay contest winner goes to Jasper, Alta.

By GRETTA ROSSI
Staff Writer

A Niagara College student goes global.

A second-year Tourism-Tours and Attractions program student has travelled to Montreal and Hong Kong and will soon travel to Jasper, Alta.

Jennifer Foster, 21, was given the opportunity to travel with 30 college and university students from across Canada to attend a Tourism Industry Association of Canada conference in Montreal.

Thirty winners were chosen from essays submitted during the 1995 summer period.

The Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, Ont., received pamphlets and contest rules from the association, which teachers gave to the students.

Foster found out she had won in early October and within a week was on her way to the conference in Montreal.

While there, the students attended classes and conferences led by association members.

At the end of the week, Foster's essay and four others were chosen for a pilot project awarding them trips to the countries about which they had written their essays. The purpose of the trips was for the students to verify and further research their essays.

Foster chose to write her essay on the need for tourism programs to be set up in Hong Kong before China takes over governmental functions of the country.

Foster spent a week in March in Hong Kong. During her time there, she says "getting lost and not being able to find my way back was my worst fear."

In Hong Kong, Foster visited tourism schools, chamber of commerce offices, and Ocean Park, the equivalent to Canada's Wonderland.

Foster often travelled with tourists she met.

"Everyone was really great, especially when they found out that I was traveling alone."

Foster will present a seminar and accompanying booklet about her trip in October 1996 to the association members at the Jasper, Alta., conference.

At the end of this semester, Foster will graduate.

"I had a lot to learn in two years. It's an intense program, but it's a good one."

After graduating, Foster says she would like to work in marketing or sales for an airline. "I want to be in touch with the public."

For students who would like to get involved in similar events, Foster gives this advice: "Basically do anything you have the chance to do. Contests, essays, volunteer work, whether you win or even care if you win, do it."

Councillor speaks on waste management

By BRAD MOSCATO
Staff Writer

The Region is determined to wrestle waste management from the municipalities. In Round 1 they claimed victory and the locals aren't pleased.

Sonja Smith, a Port Colborne city councillor, recently paid a visit to Niagara College addressing a group of 35 first-year journalism students on the issue.

Councillors recently agreed to accept transfer terms of 12 municipalities, passing on full responsibility for waste collection, re-cycling, disposal and administration to the upper-tier government.

Smith suggested the City of Port Colborne should have said "yes, (only) when you (the region) have a system in place and you have a landfill site chosen and developed, then you can take over waste management.

"Until such a point, leave it with us (Port Colborne), we're doing a good job."

She said the transfer vote was not well received in Port Colborne, as in many other municipalities.

Sonja Smith, a Port Colborne city councillor, speaks on waste management to Niagara College students.

Photo by Brad Moscato

"There is a danger that we are going down the path of this new waste management system and we really don't know if it is going to save us a lot of money."

It is estimated the transfer will save Regional municipalities $55 million over the next 25 years.

Smith said she is concerned with the amount of money spent on the transition. She said there will be headaches in the Region taking over waste management, with each municipality having a different idea on how services should be provided.

Municipal tipping fees, which range from $13 to $89 a tonne under the transfer bylaws, did not go over well with Smith.

Smith also questioned the collection process being in the hands of the Region with recent talk about eliminating the 26-year-old municipality.

Council accepted the terms in a 19-7 vote.

Have a safe summer and stay cool

We'll see you in September